

**Budget Gourmet at  
Hampden's Food Market**

HIP HOP A9

**Murals Capture  
City Pulse**

ARTS B3

# the johns hopkins News-Letter

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JANUARY 31, 2013

## HOPKINS FLAUNTS RAVENS PRIDE



On Sunday, the Ravens will face the San Francisco 49ers at Superbowl XLVII. Homewood House is lit in support. See B10 for Superbowl coverage.

## Thefts spur new Gilman classroom access plan

By ELIZABETH ARENZ  
Staff Writer

In response to the spike in laptop thefts occurring in Gilman Hall, the University has enacted a new access plan for pooled classrooms in the building.

The school announced on Jan. 24 that it would be locking all classrooms controlled by the Registrar beginning on Fridays at 5 p.m., and that these classrooms will now only be accessible by those in possession of a J-Card.

Kate Pipkin, Director of Communications and Marketing for the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, said that this higher security is a result of the rise in thefts that has taken place over the past several months.

"We've seen an uptick in thefts, particularly of computers from Gilman, where security wires have been cut, so this is a response to that uptick. The mechanism where you swipe your card was already outside these classrooms and have now been turned on full time," she said.

Pipkin explained that the University has observed a positive response to the change and noted that only classrooms used broadly across campus are restricted by this new plan.

"Some classrooms fall under various departments and have not been as

much of a problem, but the pooled classrooms are not locked as often when not in use," she said.

Sophomore Tiffany Lin offered some support for the new system, though she was skeptical of whether the problem would be completely solved.

"I think that often the thefts are occurring between students and people who already have J-Cards, so it may be unnecessary. But if the laptops are being

SEE GILMAN, PAGE A6

## Gun violence summit produces report for Congress

By ELLE PFEFFER  
Science & Technology Editor

The Bloomberg School of Public Health hosted the Summit on Reducing Gun Violence in America on Jan. 14 and 15 in response to the Dec. 14 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

The Sandy Hook incident, and other recent mass shootings, have catapulted the country into a renewed debate about effective gun control strategies.

"This is the straw that has broken the camel's back," Michael Bloomberg,

Mayor of New York City and keynote speaker at the Summit said.

Popular proposals from advocacy groups and lawmakers have included limiting magazine capacities, reinstating the 1994 assault weapons ban, mandating universal background checks and closing other loopholes in existing gun regulations among many others.

Gun policy experts from around the country and the world came to discuss policy proposals.

The backgrounds of those invited ranged from a former agent with the Bu-

reau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to physicians and professors.

Daniel Webster, the summit organizer and director of the Center for Gun Policy and Research at the Bloomberg School, said that no one he contacted to speak declined an invitation.

Bloomberg began his address with a specific discussion of proposals necessary to effectively control gun use in the country and to prevent further tragedies like those in Newtown, Oak Creek, Aurora, Tucson,

will first be dedicated to the appointment of faculty specializing in water resource sustainability, individualized health care delivery, global health, the science of learning and urban revitalization.

The other \$100 million will be reserved for need-based financial aid for undergraduate students. In the next decade, 2,600 Bloomberg Scholarships will be awarded.

RUBENSTEIN VIA FLICKR  
Bloomberg has given a total of \$1.118 billion to Hopkins.

## Cristofferson, Rosenblatt to share MSE position

By ALEXANDRA BALLATO  
Staff Writer

Last week, four juniors were selected to chair the 2013 Milton S. Eisenhower (MSE) Symposium, the University's annual autumn lecture series. Aidan O.H.W. Christofferson, Francesca Pinelli, Elias Rosenblatt and Aaron Tessler have been elected to take the reins from previous chairs Chris Alvarez, Corey Rogoff and Eva Smith.

This is the first year in recent history where more than three chairs have led

the Symposium. Typically, three appointed chairs individually manage one of the three branches of the Symposium team: Programming, Marketing and Finance. Pinelli will serve as Marketing Chair and Tessler as Finance Chair. Christofferson and Rosenblatt, who is studying abroad in Paris for the semester, will share the position of Programming Chair, and will be responsible for enlisting speakers for the docket.

"Already in comparison with other years, our list of prospective speakers

SEE MSE, PAGE A5

## New year brings change for Tamber's

By GEORGINA RUPP  
Staff Writer

Tamber's Restaurant recently announced its decision to close this Saturday for renovations. Known for its Indian and



COURTESY OF JHUINTERACTIVE.COM

Tamber's will reopen in April and feature exclusively Indian cuisine.

Western cuisine, Tamber's has been a staple of Charles Village dining since it opened in 1991.

Petro Kuman, the restaurant's owner and manager, intends to reopen Tamber's in late April

with a menu offering only Indian cuisine.

Despite the continued success of Tamber's as a restaurant that caters to all audiences, Kuman insisted that making changes is necessary. He explained that running a restaurant with such a large menu is too much work, so they need to scale down.

"Our menu is large. We need to choose one side, either American or Indian. With just Indian, there are no deep fryers, no grease," Kuman said. "That simplifies things."

Kuman described the complications behind having such an extensive menu.

SEE TAMBERS, PAGE A6

## INSIDE



B2



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## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

# Computer science students successfully boycott class final

By ANDREA MICHALOWSKY  
Staff Writer

The students in Professor Peter Froehlich's "Intermediate Programming" and "Introduction to Programming for Scientists and Engineers" (a Python language class) classes, boycotted their finals last December. The former initially organized the boycott and the latter followed suit.

To avoid the stress of taking their exam, the students decided to capitalize on a loophole in Froehlich's grading system.

"In my courses, all grades are relative to the highest actually achieved score. Thus, if no one showed up and everyone got 0 percent, everyone would be marked as 100 percent," Froehlich wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Since Froehlich started at Hopkins in 2005, no class had taken that challenge until last semester. Both of Froehlich's classes were awarded with perfect scores on their final exams.

"Peter tends to say this

in each of his classes as almost a challenge to the entire class to execute," James Gliwa, a student in Intermediate Programming, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Froehlich speculated that the Occupy Wall Street movement provided students with a model, as students coined the phrase "Occupy Hackerman" to describe their effort. He also cited the use of the online forum Piazza as facilitating the boycott.

"I gained some respect for the power of online collaboration," Joanne Selinski, the head of the computer science department, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. Students organized their efforts through social networking, having conversations, setting up GoogleDocs and taking polls. There were a few dissidents in the beginning, but they were soon convinced of the scheme.

Thus, on the day of the exam, all the students arrived half an hour early and stood outside the doors to make sure no one went into the exam room. "I didn't think they

Some had studied just in case, but they still didn't want anyone to go inside.

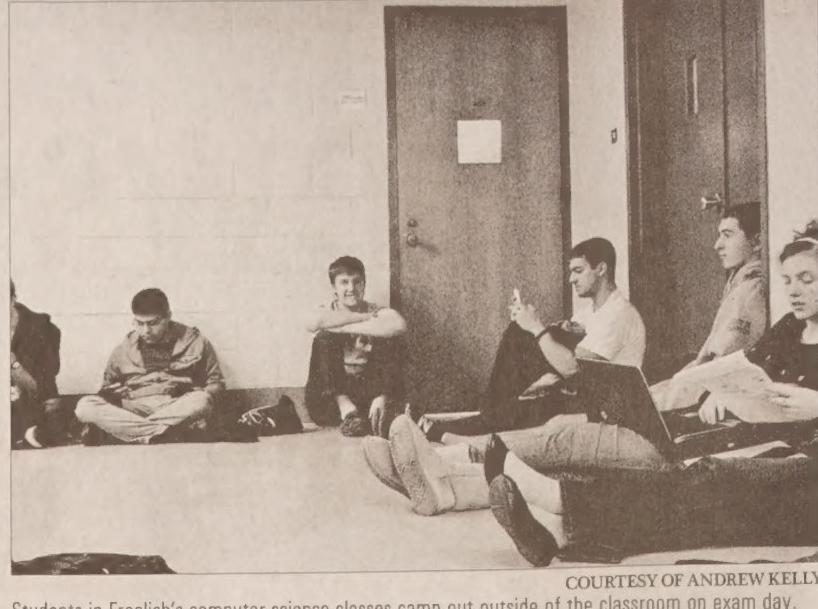
"Everyone nervously laughed when Peter arrived, he laughed, and went in," Andrew Kelly, one of Froehlich's students, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Students took photos and ate the doughnuts that someone had brought. A couple of Pi Kappa Alpha (Pike) brothers guarded the doors. At one point, Froehlich even came out to take a photo with his class in the hallway. After 20 to 30 minutes, one of the Pike brothers poked his head into the room to ask Froehlich if they were good, and Froehlich said yes. Then, everyone left.

"I had decided that I am sticking to my policy, they had decided to boycott the exam, and that was pretty much it," Froehlich wrote. "The students learned that by coming together, they can achieve something that individually they could never have done."

Dr. Froehlich had heard about the scheme before the day of the final, but decided not to act on rumors.

"I didn't think they



COURTESY OF ANDREW KELLY

Students in Froehlich's computer science classes camp out outside of the classroom on exam day.

could actually pull it off, but I also wasn't about to change my grading scheme in the middle of the semester. I think students should be able to expect that the rules they enroll under are also the rules that they will finish the course under," he wrote.

Selinski knew that the possibility of a boycott existed due to the loophole

in Froehlich's policy, but agreed with his decision of not changing a grading system mid-semester. With the success of the boycott not guaranteed, students still were forced to prepare for the exam.

"The disadvantages of changing the rules mid-semester, particularly the message that would send to students, seemed to outweigh the relatively small effect on course grades that would ensue from a successful boycott. Also, since students didn't know for sure until exam time if the boycott would be successful, they had to study for it anyway, which is a main benefit of exams," Selinski wrote.

She allowed Froehlich to make the

final decision on the policy, and while she remained informed about the situation, she did not intervene. She noted how the teamwork the students exemplified debunked myths of cutthroat academic competition at Hopkins.

"Honestly, I was really surprised and impressed that the students pulled it off, and I respected Dr. Froehlich for sticking to his stated policies. At a school that has traditionally been criticized for being too competitive, it was great to see the students come together that way," Selinski wrote.

Apart from the free university publicity provided by having the campus appear on the screen, Hopkins also earned a modest stipend in return.

"We do require reimbursement of all expenses, and on top of that, we charge a location fee. But it's not a huge amount of money," O'Shea wrote.

For the duration of the filming process, business on campus went on as usual.

"No building was closed for the *House of Cards* filming. Sometimes people had to use an alternate entrance, or had to wait a bit for a shot to end before walking across the quad. But there was very little impact," O'Shea said. "People on campus were very cooperative and interested and excited to watch. We got one minor noise complaint after the *House of Cards* shoot, none that I recall from *The Social Network*."

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Though *House of Cards* will solely debut online, students expressed excitement for what the new series has to offer.

"After seeing the *House of Cards* trailer, I could tell that Fincher's miniseries has the potential to be great. Beyond that, I will definitely be looking out for the scenes filmed on campus," freshman Avi Posen said.

Some issues stem from the miniseries' slight inaccessibility since it is only available for those who are subscribed to Netflix.

"There's been an increase in Netflix exclusively debuting television shows like *Arrested Development*'s highly anticipated fourth season and *House of Cards*. It is frustrating that people need to purchase Netflix in order to enjoy these shows. At the same time though, it's very similar to purchasing channels for your cable such as Showtime or HBO," freshman Adam Eckstein said.

calls into question the role of assigning grades in a course.

"It's good for faculty to be challenged by students, and perhaps it inspired some reflection on the meaningfulness of grades and our own grading policies. I think many of us would be happy to do away with grades if that were possible so that education is focused on learning, not GPAs," she wrote.

However, the final was not a major part of the grade in Dr. Froehlich's class.

"In a programming course, it's exceedingly difficult to judge one's knowledge of a subject by a written 50 minute exam.

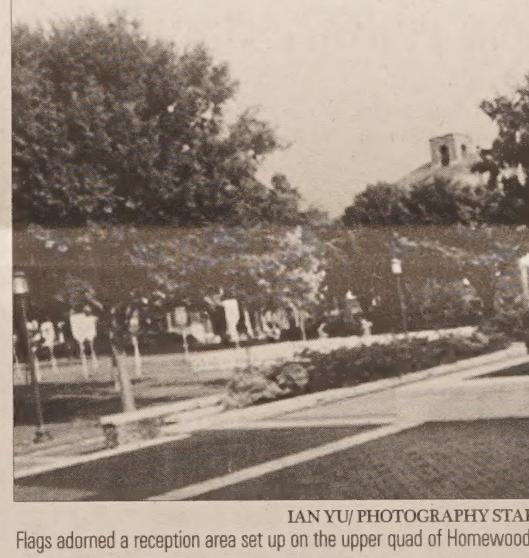
It ends up being a test on nit-picky details and doesn't accurately determine the good programmers from the great, or the not so great. Peter is fully aware and supportive of this idea,

so by not having the tests, students were graded more so on their assignments, which in turn was a more accurate representation of a student's ability as a programmer," Gliwa wrote.

For the students, one less final meant one less thing to stress about.

"It was great because I had two tests the day before and two tests the following day, so not having to worry about that test was definitely a blessing," sophomore Oliver McNeely wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Dr. Froehlich has since changed his grading system so that if everyone has zero points, everyone gets 0 percent. He now reserves the right to give everyone a 0 percent if he thinks that they are cheating the system.



IAN YU/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF  
Flags adorned a reception area set up on the upper quad of Homewood.

have to abide by — for instance, no equipment heavy enough to damage the brick walkways or the irrigation equipment under the grass. They have to leave campus in the condition they found it," O'Shea wrote.

"There was one very minor piece of damage in *The Social Network* filming, which the crew immediately alerted us about and paid to have fixed. They were great to work with."

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IAN YU/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF  
The MSE Library was temporarily renamed for the filming of the *House of Cards* series this past summer.



COURTESY OF ANDREW KELLY  
Froehlich waited in his classroom as his students boycotted the exam.

## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

# University holds symposium to discuss Gateway Sciences Initiative

By RACHEL WITKIN  
Editor-in-Chief

The University held its second annual Symposium on Excellence in Teaching and Learning in the Sciences last month. The event evaluated the progress of the Gateway Sciences Initiative (GSI), which aims to improve the way science is taught. Around 400 educators and students attended.

GSI was in an exploratory phase for the past year, during which time 11 experiments were funded by the Provost to figure out what works and what doesn't.

The symposium allowed professors and students to discuss how these programs perform, what they want to do in the future and to listen to similar programs that exist across the country.

President Daniels opened the event by discussing the progress that the University has made so far, mentioning the construction of the new undergraduate teaching labs.

"We are reimagining and creating laboratory space that reflects how science and discovery takes

place in the 21st century," he said. "As exciting as this building is, and it is a very exciting opportunity for us, the creation of the new physical space would mean little if that was all it was. What makes the project truly remarkable is that it embodies ... the commitment to fundamentally rethink how we educate our young scientists from the very moment they step onto their campus."

He went on to explain that 50 percent of students nationwide who start college with an interest in science or engineering drop out of those majors. At Hopkins, in 2006, about 60 percent of undergraduates entered with an interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) but over 25 percent of these students did not graduate with a STEM degree.

"These models reveal an educational model that is out of sync, sometimes dramatically out of sync, with changing student expectations and what research tells us about how students learn best," Daniels said.

The first keynote speaker was Robin Wright from the University of Minnesota. She started off by explaining how her teaching style changed from a lecture, where students only want to memorize what's going to be on the test, to a class environment where students actually want to learn.

"My goal is to share my journey," she explained. "I was disappointed in what my students actually could do. I wanted them to do more than just answering questions on multiple choice tests."

She wanted to develop a method that stopped students from asking what was going to be on

the test just to memorize the information and promptly forget it after the exam was over. She wanted them to learn more than just the concepts in the textbooks, such as how to communicate with each other. She decided to give her students weekly quizzes, where they would first have to answer the questions on their own and then try to figure out the answers in groups. The students would usually come to class prepared because they didn't want to embarrass themselves in front of their peers.

"This ended up working so well that it's an unbelievable accident," Wright said. "I [used to] do all the work for them rather than inviting opportunities for them to do the work."

She also decided to revamp her grading system.

Since long-term memories aren't created immediately, she allows students to have a second chance at the end of the semester with a cumulative final.

If they know the material by the end of the semester, then she is satisfied that they will continue to know the material, and grades her students accordingly.

Vice Provost Scott Zeger, who has spearheaded the initiative, enjoyed Wright's talk because it was interactive.

"She ran the ... keynote address as she does her classroom really with posing a series of questions and discussing with a large group," he said.

"She showed selected slides ... as provocation for interchange among the audience with her. You can engage people [with discussion] much better than with just a lecture."

Next, interim provost Jonathan Bagger spoke about how his office chose which proposals would be funded and how he thinks the program is going so far.

"Some people say Johns Hopkins professors don't care about teaching and

learning and that's simply not true," he said.

Out of the 11 funded proposals, six were discussed at the symposium.

One of these proposals was a freshman biology class, where students were able to study phage in a lab setting. They are given independence while doing these experiments and get to blog about their experiences.

Chemistry professor Jane Greco talked about the new class for students who took AP Chemistry in high school but don't want to go straight into Organic Chemistry as a freshman. Greco wanted to make sure that students learned the topics that they needed to succeed in advanced chemistry courses that they may not have learned in high school. The class is currently limited due to lab space, but more students will be able to take the courses once the new teaching labs are built.

"It was probably the best decision that I ever made," freshman Raidison Mercedes said. "I didn't know what to expect, I thought it was going to be a very difficult course. I actually learned a lot [and] it motivated me to want to learn more and possibly even major in chemistry."

Other projects included an active learning classroom where class time was used for solving problems instead of lecturing and peer mentoring for Intro Chemistry. The mentoring program started last spring, and also exists for calculus and physics classes. They found that students in this pilot program have a better overall GPA.

He promoted active learning and fieldwork in all types of classes, and stressed that learning has to be a part of the University's brand. He said that a student applying to Hopkins might not expect personal learning to be a part of its brand, and that this is the moment for Hopkins to reshelf its brand if it wants to.

Zeger thought that the Symposium went extremely well.

"One exciting thing to me about the Symposium is that people are changing, over the undergraduate and graduate level, across the University, because they're learning about ideas," he said. "There's just an inherent desire among the faculty to do well in their teaching that they're finding things that work, they're changing things. There are really good ideas now of how to do better."



COURTESY OF JAMES VAN RENSSALAER/HOMEWOOD.PHOTO.JHU.EDU  
President Ron Daniels opens the Symposium by talking about the progress JHU has and will continue to make.

## JHU Politik launches iPad app

By BEN SCHWARTZ  
Staff Writer

The JHU Politik launched an iPad app on Monday, becoming the first undergraduate organization at Hopkins to release a standalone app for the iPad.

The app gives users the ability to download and read current and prior issues of the Politik Press, the JHU Politik's "opinion-based" political magazine. Users can also email and print issues directly from the app.

"Over time we've been able to boost our readership and I was thinking, fundamentally, that it's not really fun to write for people if they're not going to read it and it's really necessary for a publication, to be legitimate, is for it to have hard, cold facts on readership," Editor-in-Chief of the JHU Politik Jeremy Orloff said. "It occurred to me that an iPad app would allow us to boost our readership, and hopefully people will be downloading this anywhere, even if they are not affiliated with Hopkins."

Orloff did a little bit of research and found out



COURTESY OF JHPOLITIK.ORG  
The JHU Politik app can now be purchased by iPad users.

vices apps.

"[I] spoke to the IT people who control the developer account and they were completely, one hundred percent supportive of us developing an app and [said] they would publish it for us," Orloff said.

But IT added, "You need to find someone to write the code. We won't help you with that, we don't

have the resources for that, but if you can do it, we'll put it up."

The app was developed in a little over two months by freshman Si-hao Lu, who began work

on the project in early October after responding to a listing from the JHU Politik in search of a developer.

"I responded in about thirty minutes," Lu said.

"I once made a metronome, a Piano app on the iPad, but I had never tried to present a Newsstand app, and to retrieve some files from the server from the Internet, never," Lu said. "But I thought I could, so I just accepted the request and I see it as my first challenge at Johns Hopkins."

"An iPhone app is coming surprisingly shortly also," Orloff said.

The JHU Politik publishes the Politik Press online every Sunday night throughout the fall and spring semesters.

The iPad app, which was released concurrently with a special issue of the Politik Press focused on the intersection of research and politics, is available for free on the App Store.

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## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

# PostSecret founder talks about bullying

By KATIE QUINN  
Managing Editor

In the crowded third floor of the Jim Rouse Visionary Center at the Visionary Art Museum of Baltimore on Jan. 17, the creator of PostSecret introduced himself and his mission: "My name is Frank Warren and I collect secrets."

Warren, creator of PostSecret, spoke at the American Visionary Art Museum Anti-Bullying Program, which was held to combat the effect of bullying, particularly in school-age children and young adults. It also aimed to fight the 400 percent increase of teen suicides in the United States in the past thirty years.

Michael Phelps's mother, Debbie Phelps, spoke as a long-time teacher, principal and superintendent, along with Jan Houbolt, executive director of The Leadership, a program of the Greater Baltimore Committee, who shared his own experiences with bullying.

Warren opened the event, explaining how the Post-Secret project became a worldwide phenomenon, inspiring blogs, books, and multiple art exhibits at the Visionary Art Museum. The PostSecret project began in 2004, when Warren stuck postcards in a variety of locations throughout Washington D.C. and Baltimore, including the nearby "Book Thing." Over the past nine years, Warren has received more than

500,000 postcards in response and what started as a project has turned into a movement.

He related that as the secrets grew in number, the secrets also grew more personal. Warren presented a secret he received early on in the project: a photograph of a door broken down with holes. Written over the card were the words, "The holes are from when my mom tried knocking down my door so she could continue beating me." After posting this secret, dozens of people around the world responded with their own pictures of "broken doors," offering support and strength in times of hurt. In the span of hours, PostSecret became much more than an anonymous blog, it became a method of speaking out against abuse.

Later in his speech, Warren relayed stories of his own history with bullying, boldly referring to himself as someone who used to be a bully.

However, Warren also spoke about the relationship between bullies and the bullied, examining how he believes his being hurt contributed to his own hateful acts. Warren shared a secret published in one of the Post Secret books, relating his own bullying experience.

"When I was in the Fourth Grade, a new kid moved to our neighborhood. He was a charismatic leader who quickly became popular. Soon after, he con-

vinced two of my friends to pin me to the ground and hold open my eyelids. They took turns spitting into my eyes," Warren said.

Debbie Phelps commented on life as an educator and what you can do to try and help the bullied in these types of situations.

She related how, in her experience,

the students became like her children and she tried to support each and everyone of them. As they walked through the hallways, Phelps taught them to stand up to their bullies, empowering them to reach their full potential.

She also spoke about her son Michael and the story of how after making the Olympic team, another swimmer approached Michael who had bullied him when in middle school. Instead of acting out against the bully, Michael said he did not remember the bully and walked away. Debbie Phelps referred to this as one of her proudest moments as a mother.

Towards the end of the event, every member of the audience was invited to write down their secret and then read it aloud. As members of the audience each shared their brief

story of heartbreak, abuse, and personal tragedy, the audience applauded their courage.

A f t e r -

w a r d s ,  
Christine  
McComas ,

rose to speak  
about her  
daughter,  
Grace Mc-  
Comas 's ,

s u i c i d e f o l-  
l o w i n g a c y-  
b e r b u l l y i n g  
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o v e r c o m e i t s o w n p r e j u d i c e s a g a i n s t c y b e r b u l l y i n g .

E a c h o f t h e t h r e e s p e a k e r s h a d w o r d s o f s u p p o r t a n d e n c o r a g e m e n t f o r b e i n g a b l e t o s p e a k o u t a g a i n s t b u l l y i n g .

I n a q u e s t i o n-a n d-a n s w e r s e c t i o n o f t h e e v e n t , J a n H u b a l t r e c o m m e n d e d t h e I n c e n t i v e M e n t o r i n g P r o g r a m ( I M P ) a s a g r e a t w a y t o o f f e r a s u p p o r t s y s t e m f o r b u l l i e d c h i l d r e n .

T h e p r o g r a m m a t c h e s u n d e r-p e r f o r m i n g h i g h s c h o o l s t u d e n t s w i t h a f a m i l y t h a t w i l l e n c o u r a g e t h e m t o w o r k h a r d a n d g r a d u a t e . T w o I M P v o l u n t e e r s r o s e t o s p e a k o n b e h a l f o f t h e p r o g r a m a n d i t s g r e a t s u c c e s s . T h e p r o g r a m h a s a 100 p e r c e n t g r a d u a t i o n r a t e .

H o p k i n s , a l o n g w i t h m a n y o t h e r u n i v e r s i t i e s ,

h a s i t s o w n b r a n c h o f t h e I n c e n t i v e M e n t o r i n g P r o g r a m .

T h i s p a s t w e e k , w e

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S t u d e n t s i n o u r p r o-

g r a m f a c e m a n y c h a l l e n g e s

o u t s i d e o f t h e c l a s s r o o m t h a t c a n t a k e a n e m o t i o n a l

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I n c e n t i v e M e n t o r i n g P r o-

g r a m m e m b e r , w r o t e i n a n

e-m a i l t o *T h e N e w s-L e t t e r*.



COURTESY OF AMERICAN VISIONARY ART MUSEUM VIA FACEBOOK  
Frank Warren, founder of PostSecret, spoke to a crowd of about 100 people about his relationship with bullying.

## Plans for Hopkins Identity Initiative discussed by SGA

By OLIVIA SPECTOR  
Staff Writer

This Tuesday, the Student Government Association (SGA) held their first meeting of the semester. At the meeting Glenn Bieler, Hopkins' vice president for communications and public affairs, talked to SGA members about the Johns Hopkins University Identity Initiative. Student organizations Hopkins Kicks Butts and the Filmmaking Club also presented new initiatives.

"The goal of the Johns Hopkins University Identity Initiative is to bring consistency across the university through a marketing and communications focus," Bieler said.

There are nine schools, both graduate and undergraduate, within the University, and many of the schools have their own logo with different fonts, colors, and icons.

The goal of the Identity Initiative is to create one university-wide logo, which will probably be launched in April, and will help centralize the university.

Every Hopkins school will default to the new logo.

"However, if a school has an old icon, they are allowed to keep it, but they have to fit it into the architecture of the new

logo," Bieler said.

When conducting interviews, one source told Bieler, "The Hopkins brand is powerful for medicine and lacrosse."

The Identity Initiative will strive to demonstrate and market Hopkins' other strengths, such as international relations and public health. The aim is to connect all of Hopkins' schools in order to make it feel like one cohesive university.

In general, the SGA members are very supportive of the Identity Initiative.

"I really like the logo, it's a good idea," Executive Secretary Paige Doyle said.

Two student groups, Hopkins Kicks Butts and the Filmmaking club, also talked to the SGA at this week's meeting.

Co-President of the Hopkins Kicks Butts organization, Zoe Rammelkamp discussed her club's goal of making Hopkins a smoke-free campus.

Having a smoke-free campus would entail prohibiting smoking on all of Hopkins' campuses, in addition to prohibiting the sale and promotion of all tobacco products on campus.

Rammelkamp supported the club's initiative with statistics, stating that, "studies have shown that 69% of people who

smoke do want to quit, but find that it is too difficult."

Banning smoking on campus may aid some students in quitting, and the policy would increase the support network for smokers who want to quit by working with the Student Health and Wellness Center.

Additionally, in a poll conducted of Hopkins undergraduates, only 9% self-identified as a smoker.

Many schools in Maryland, such as Towson and the University of Maryland have already decided to go smoke free.

"At this rate, Hopkins will become the last school in the state of Maryland to become smoke-free," Rammelkamp said.

The Filmmaking Club president Maxwell Dickey also spoke to the group about his

club's new project to create a weekly, two minute video-series.

"The transparency videos will focus on the SGA and student events and activities. The videos will be published on the film club's youtube channel," Dickey said.

After the meeting, Executive President Moses Song spoke about his plans for the upcoming semester.

"My goal would be to increase community service involvement on campus. President Daniel's

number one goal is also to increase community involvement," said Song.

One way he hopes to do this is through a spring day of service, which would be a smaller day of service similar to that of the President's Day of Service in the fall.

**BALTIMORE'S BEST BREAKFAST & BURGER**

- City Paper

- Baltimore Magazine

**PETE'S GRILLE**

## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

# Chairs plan consistency for MSE in fall semester

**MSE, FROM A1**  
are unequalled in their renown, prestige and intellect," Christofferson, who will replace Alvarez as Programming Chair, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Christofferson worked on the Symposium's financial operations last year, but is excited to focus more on the speakers themselves.

"It may seem a bit ironic that a college junior gets to select a distinguished group of some of the world's most accomplished and successful professionals, leaders and politicians, but it's a job I will enjoy intensely," he wrote.

After a season of events whose attendance radically varied — Seth Meyers kicked off last fall's Symposium to a full house in Shriner Hall, while other speakers saw fewer than a hundred audience members — the chairs seek to ensure the consistency of the Symposium.

Christofferson said that the team's aspirations for the future of MSE will set the bar even higher than in years past.

"Simply put, I do not believe that the Symposium has yet reached its potential," Christofferson wrote.

"My drive to obtain more diverse and better renowned speakers — and to match them with a packed audience — will allow conversation on important issues to reach a greater percentage of the Hopkins community. I understand not only where the Symposium excels, but also where it needs to improve.

My experience with running a speakers [program] would allow me to iron out these kinks, and ultimately create a harder-

hitting Symposium that resonates within the Hopkins community."

Rosenblatt also expressed his eagerness to become chair.

"I feel very lucky to help provide our campus with the opportunity to hear the stories and insights from a variety of men and women of vastly different fields and backgrounds who we can all look to as examples of success," Rosenblatt wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

At present, the chairs' first task is to decide on a theme for the upcoming season and prepare an application for the Symposium staff, both of which will be announced on Feb. 15.

To remedy budget limitations, Tessler, who will run the staff's finances, expressed a need to establish lasting ties to potential benefactors in the university and alumni communities.

"I specifically chose Finance Chair as it is very important to me to build bridges with those individuals and organizations who sponsor the Symposium," Tessler wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

"I see my job as MSE's liaison to these partners, charged with showing them just how valuable their investment in the MSE Symposium really is to our campus and student body."

All this, he said, in the interest of preserving and fortifying a necessary campus institution.

Pinelli's task is to find new ways to effectively market the Symposium to attract the student body. With widely varying numbers at the Symposium's events in the past, her job is crucial.

# Bloomberg, O'Malley headline Gun Summit

**GLUNS, FROM A1**  
during President Obama's second term if further actions are not taken. "It's time for Congress and the White House to put public health above special interest politics."

Bloomberg laid out a seven-pronged proposal for how to change the country's gun policy, further detailed in a report released the same day by Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a coalition co-founded by Bloomberg in 2006. He suggested mandating universal background checks for all gun sales, including those that are private, and pressed Congress to change the punishment for gun trafficking to a federal crime. He also proposed a limit on assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

Beyond these measures, Bloomberg advocated four executive actions that Obama could take without congressional approval. First, he argued for federal agencies to be required to report all significant information to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) so that the database remains up-to-date and effective.

Second, Bloomberg recommended stronger enforcement from the Department of Justice. He explained the deficiencies in the Justice Department's prosecution of criminals who lie on background checks to purchase guns. In 2010, only 44 out of 76,000 of these cases went to trial.

Third, Bloomberg suggested the recess appointment of a director for the ATF, a position that has been vacant for six years.

"Can you imagine how much outrage there would

be if we'd been without a Homeland Security Secretary for six years... You can't have an agency without somebody running it that's going to do the job that it was created for," Bloomberg said.

Finally, he called on the President to end his support for the Tiahrt Amendment, which restricts the public release of information on criminals using or selling illegal guns. He also advocated for an end to the restrictions on Center for Disease Control and National Institute of Health research surrounding gun violence. Bloomberg cited the importance of the Hopkins motto: "The truth shall set you free."

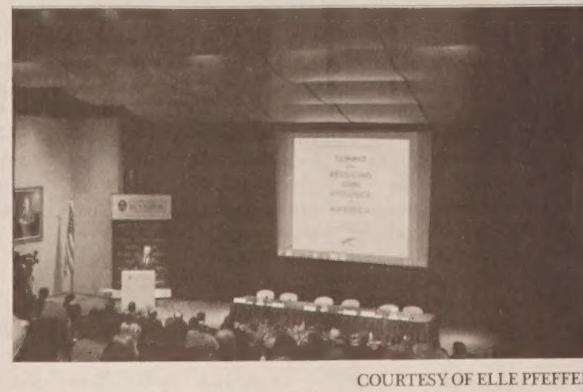
Bloomberg urged members in the audience to call upon Congress, even if they are in support of gun policy reform, because they may be able to influence those who stand in the way.

The Summit placed an emphasis on the idea that gun violence can be prevented, as the United States is not actually prone to more violence, in comparison with other high-income countries.

"We're not more violent, but when we're violent, we kill," Matthew Miller, participant and Deputy Director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center, said.

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, who introduced Bloomberg, discussed some of the concerns specific to Maryland that would be proposed during the January legislative session.

"Neither Mayor Bloomberg nor any of us in Mary-



COURTESY OF ELLE PFEFFER

The Hopkins Gun Summit helped to fuel the national debate on gun control.

land are seeking to ban all guns. At the same time, we know that it makes absolutely no sense when you look at the level of carnage on our streets from guns to blame every factor but guns," O'Malley said.

The comprehensive issues up for debate in Maryland include an assault weapons ban, magazine capacity limitations, revised licensing requirements, an enhancement of mental health services and an examination of school safety policies. Additionally, a Maryland Center for School Safety will be created.

University President Ronald J. Daniels also acknowledged the toll of gun violence locally.

"It is also important to note where we are gathering. In the past year alone, there were more than 2,700 gun related crimes in Baltimore. Sadly, this is a place where gun violence is not a surprising event, but in far too many quarters of our city, a tragic and all too commonplace part of life," Daniels said.

The reach of the conference and the proposals discussed did not stop at the end of day two. On Jan. 25, the Johns Hopkins

University Press released *Reducing Gun Violence in America*, with chapters authored by every Summit participant and a foreword by Bloomberg.

The concluding chapter outlines the consensus recommendations of all the participants, presented in a press conference at the end of the second day of the Summit.

"This book will constitute a state-of-the-art sourcebook for policy makers grappling with the policy options needed to respond effectively to gun violence," Daniels said. "By the end of the month, we are committed to seeing a copy of the book on the desks of each and every member of Congress and of appropriate officials in the executive branch. That is no small feat."

Though some in attendance bemoaned the common fears that the gun control debate will seep back into the woodwork, most were optimistic about the power of the collective group of proposals.

"Perhaps there is no way to completely prevent the next Newtown tragedy, but then again, perhaps there is," O'Malley said, concluding his speech.

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For more information go to [www.jhu.edu/pura](http://www.jhu.edu/pura)  
Questions? Email [pura@jhu.edu](mailto:pura@jhu.edu) or call 410-516-8770

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## Suspect in Gilman thefts confirmed

**GILMAN, FROM A1**  
stolen by people unconnected to the school, then it's an easy measure of security for the school to implement. It's a good first step because Gilman is a great place for students to study and should remain open to them. Limiting access is a reasonable response to what has happened," Lin said.

Pipkin shared that the thefts are believed to have been committed by external individuals, asserting that this solution is a simple, effective, and relatively inexpensive one.

"Though I don't know that anything we could do is 100 percent secure, these locks are pretty secure, and as the rooms are now only available to internal people in possession of J-Cards, if something does happen, we can track which J-Cards have been used to enter the classrooms," Pipkin said.

Regarding the possibility of returning stolen laptops to their owners, Pipkin indicated that computers may have been found at a local pawn shop by the Baltimore Police Department and that an investigation is still ongoing.

Although the Milton S. Eisenhower Library is also open to the public, thefts there have been far fewer according to Deborah Slingluff, Associate Director for User Services at the Sheridan Libraries.

"None of the recent thefts have been from the library, and if they have been, it has been very unusual," Slingluff said.

With a driver's license, members of the general community can gain access

to the Sheridan Libraries from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and by purchasing borrowing privileges, they may check out materials. The older study rooms in the library do not have the same technology as those located in Brody Learning Commons, where individuals need a J-Card to gain entry.

Computer thefts have been on the rise across Homewood. Freshman Kaye Weinstein's laptop was stolen out of her backpack when she accidentally left it in the Fresh Food Café overnight before the start of reading period.

"When I came to get it the next day, my laptop had been taken out, and though I reported what had happened to security, they did very little to investigate. I also called to follow up, but they hadn't made any progress and my laptop has still not been found," Weinstein said.

A non-Hopkins affiliate suspected of stealing laptops from campus buildings was arrested. The man, who matched the description of a suspect wanted by the Baltimore Police Department, was carrying a bag holding wire cutting pliers and following his arrest, admitted to the theft of multiple computers on the Hopkins campus.

Lt. Mark Long, Campus Safety and Security Investigations Section Supervisor, declined to comment on the ongoing police investigation regarding the suspect.

Though it is unclear at this time whether stolen laptops will be recovered, the University hopes its new access plans in Gilman will bring an end to the thefts.

## Tamber's removes American fare from menu'

**TAMBER'S, FROM A1**

"I work six days a week and 12 hours a day, sometimes more. It is two restaurants in one. And I'm responsible for everything running smoothly," Kuman said. "We took on too much. I'm not complaining; I was willing to do that on my own. But now we want less headache, less work."

Because of the diversity in cuisine featured on the menu, there are many requests which create additional work for the restaurant.

"People come in and ask for what they're craving even though it isn't on the menu," Kuman said. "They want egg white omelets or broccoli instead of rice, and we serve it."

He also explained that he cannot compete with the franchises, like Subway and Chipotle, which are located just a few blocks away. Unlike

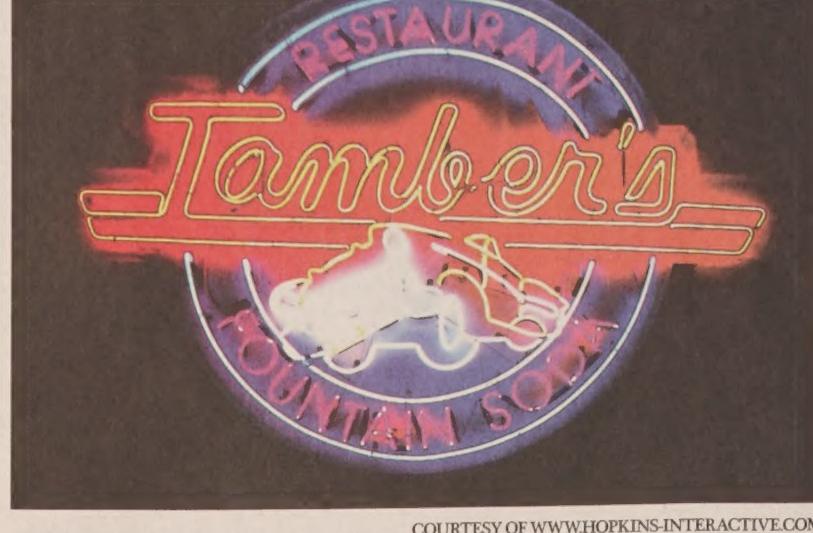
Tamber's

cannot advertise and it cannot negotiate higher salaries for its employees because it has no budget for these things.

"This is a mom and pop shop. It's not like Subway and Chipotle," he said.

Kuman grew up in India and moved to the United States about 32 years ago. When he and his brother bought Tamber's, it was a small American diner and half the size it is today.

The personal connection that one finds at a mom and pop place like



COURTESY OF WWW.HOPKINS-INTERACTIVE.COM

Members of the staff at Tamber's have expressed mixed opinions about the decision to renovate and overhaul the menu.

Tamber's is what sets it apart from the other dining options in the area, he noted. As a result, when customers began to ask for Indian food as a favor early on, he obliged. Eventually

it was clear that the demand for

Indian cuisine existed, so Kuman seized the opportunity and added Indian food to the Tamber's menu.

Kuman and his brother

bought the building next door as their home about thirteen years ago. Seeing that business was continuing to grow, they began a yearlong renovation project, completed in 2005, in which they expanded the dining room and tripled the seating.

Tamber's accommodates these order specifications because of the

personal connections it has with so many of its customers. About 80 percent of the clientele is made up of students and hospital workers in the daytime, Kelly noted. At night it's mostly students and Guilford area families.

Sophomore Harriet Green, a devoted Tamber's client, is disappointed that the restaurant will be closing.

"It's tragic. An utter tragedy. No other place will live up to Tamber's for Sunday brunch."

The decision to serve only Indian food has not been popular with many Hopkins students, who represent a large portion of Tamber's clientele.

"I like Tamber's because you can go there for an omelet in the morning and then go back for Chicken Tikka Masala at night," sophomore Ginny Rogers said.

Members of the staff agree.

"It seems like a lot of people don't want this at

all," Kelly, a waitress at Tamber's for the past five years, said.

Kelly commented that, in his experience, roughly one-third of customers order Indian food at Tamber's during the daytime and at night it is slightly more.

Nevertheless, Kuman stands by his decision.

A certain amount of ambiguity surrounds the imminent closing of this neighborhood joint.

This past weekend, a waitress explained that the staff had been notified about the renovations very recently when a note was put up in the kitchen. The waitress referred to the closing as "shady."

Members of the staff are not pleased with the decision to renovate.

"Everyone is just working until we are laid off. I'm sure we'll have the opportunity to come back after the renovation," Kelly said.

"Most of them are crying," Kuman said.

# Rogers House 2013

Residential Life offers Rogers House as a unique residential experience. We will provide a "Healthy Living at Hopkins Experience" within Rogers House. This option is for **CURRENT FRESHMEN ONLY**.

The House accommodates 20 students and one staff member. There are 12 singles and 4 double rooms. Gender may factor into placement due to the unique layout of the house. Each floor has 4 - 6 rooms, a large common lounge with a flatscreen TV, and a kitchen.

Students should plan to register in groups of 1 or 2. Selection will be based on eligibility status and a room selection priority number. This house will provide a 9 month contract, optional dining plan, and will remain open for the Thanksgiving and Spring break, but will close for Winter Break.

Rogers House focuses on people and programming that prioritizes:

- Balance Living
- Exercise
- Nutrition
- Rest & Relaxation
- Substance Free Living

Please join us for the Rogers Open House:  
Tuesday, February 5th from 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Due to the high interest in this living experience, Residential Life will be performing an eligibility check which includes class standing, judicial history, input from your current RA and submission of the

Eligibility Application:

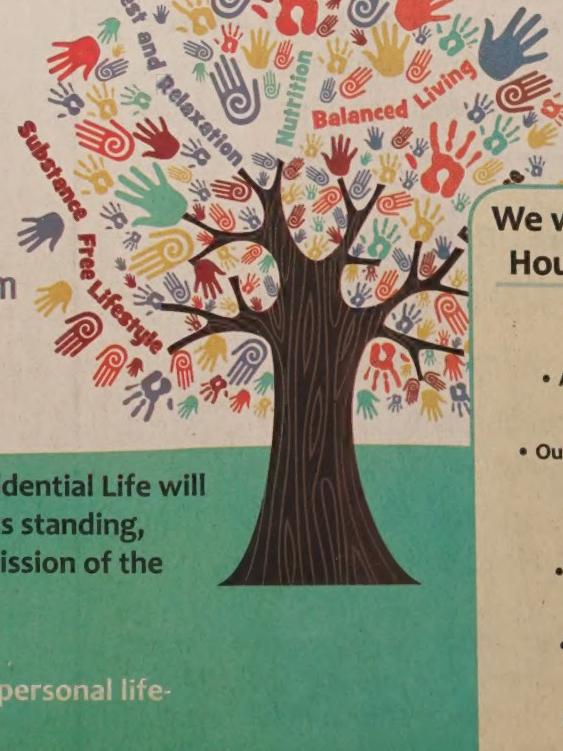
- Why would you like to live in Rogers House?
- How does this living experience fit with your personal lifestyle?
- What types of activities would you actively participate in within this community?

Applications will be available on-line starting

Tuesday, February 5th, 2013

@ [http://home\\_at\\_hopkins.jhu.edu](http://home_at_hopkins.jhu.edu)

Deadline: Tuesday, February 12th, 2013 by 5:00pm



We will provide Roger's House residents with:

- A fitness class pass to the Rec Center
- A vegetable & herb garden to grow and maintain
- Outdoor Grill and Reading Patio
- Cooking Classes & Specialty Dinners
- Free admission to special entertainment events
- Stress Management Kits
- Seminars by Health Professionals, Dieticians, Fitness Gurus, and Massage Therapists

For more information contact Residential Life by calling 410-516-8283 or email Shelly Fickau at [shellyf@jhu.edu](mailto:shellyf@jhu.edu). Selection will be based on eligibility status and a room selection priority number. Students will receive eligibility notification by Friday, February 15th.

# Off-Campus Living 2013-2014

## All I need to know about Off-Campus: Information Session

Get all the information you will need to decide about Off-Campus Living for the 2013-2014 academic year.

The Off-Campus Housing Office will be presenting information regarding housing in the surrounding communities. We will also explain the steps involved in obtaining a privately owned apartment within the community.

**Thursday, February 7th  
5:30pm - 7:00pm  
Charles Commons - MPR**

Off-Campus Housing Office  
Wolman Hall, Room 102  
410-516-7961  
Website: [www.jhu.edu/hds/offcampus](http://www.jhu.edu/hds/offcampus)  
Email: [offcampus@hd.jhu.edu](mailto:offcampus@hd.jhu.edu)

**Ask Off-Campus Information Booths**

- **Thurs. January 31 | 5:00pm - 7:00pm**  
Charles Commons: Outside Nolan's
- **Tues. February 5th | 11:30am - 1:00pm**  
Charles Street Market: Patio
- **Wed. February 20th | 9:30am - 12:00pm**  
Campus Breezeway

**All I need to know about Off-Campus Information Session**

Thursday February 7th | 5:30pm - 7:00pm  
Charles Commons: Multipurpose Room  
\*Refreshments provided\*

**Off-Campus Safety & Security Night @ Nolan's**

Tuesday, February 12th | 5:00pm - 7:00pm  
Charles Commons: Nolan's

**OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING FAIR**

Thursday, February 28th | 11:00am - 2:00pm  
Levering Hall: Glass Pavilion

**Homewood Neighborhood Open House**

Saturday, March 2nd | 11am - 2:00pm  
Charles Village, Roland Park, Hampden

Open  
House

Pizza

Ask  
Questions

Off-Campus  
Housing  
Fair

Give-A-Ways

2013 - 2014

## HIP HOP

The next generation of COLUMNS is here. This is the place for restaurants, fashion, fitness, cooking, relationships, lifestyle and trends

# Celebrity ReTweets, Hopkins Cold Feet, Snapchat, Cats and Ravens

**Hannah Decatur @HDecates**

attn: desperately seeking a @RandyHouser RT. if anyone knows where i can find one, hit a girl uppp (\*cough randy cough\*)

Retweeted by Randy Houser

Expand

25 Jan

twitter

Twitter is over capacity.



A new semester means new tweets, and what better way to start off the semester than with my very first celebrity retweet. Bonus? I only had to beg him three times to retweet my desperation. Not even the enticement of featuring his tweet in *The News-Letter* made his fingers itch to press "retweet." Needless to say, a Randy Houser tweet is now featured in the *The News-Letter*.

**Hopkins Girl Probz @HopGirlProbz**

But mommmmm, I don't wanna go backkkkk

Expand ← Reply ↗ Retweet ★ Favorite ⋯ More

23 Jan



**Snapchat Problems @SnapchatProbbz**

When somebody opens my snapchat but doesn't respond I just assume they died from my ugliness.

Expand

21 Jan

Although I'm sure most of us don't want to go back to the grind of the semester, at least we can look forward to going back to our own apartments, Maxies' pizza, and the feel of the green Brody worm chairs against the curvature of our backs (while we're browsing our Facebooks, of course, and avoiding our assigned reading of "Do Androids Dream of Sheep?" I don't know, do they?).



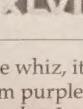
**Sockamillion @sockington**

trot trot WHOOPS CRASH looks like that makes an even louder noise when I knock it over at night ANOTHER BREAKTHROUGH FOR CAT SCIENCE

Expand ← Reply ↗ Retweet ★ Favorite ⋯ More

21 Jan

Jason Scott made his cat a Twitter, and it's the funniest account in the Twitterverse. This cat has more followers than McDonalds, because cats are more funny than burgers.



**Baltimore Ravens @Ravens**

Harbs on coaches facing each other for the 1st time in a championship game: "It's not exactly like Churchill and Roosevelt."

Expand

21 Jan

Gee whiz, it looks like Ray Lewis peed purple all over Baltimore. But I like it. I like Gilman's purple glow, the random purple lights in the windows of an office building near Penn Station, the "Go Ravens" MTA banner, and the fact that I met someone whose car got flipped after last Sunday's game because people were jumping on it. Even though the Ravens beat my beloved Patriots, I'll be wearing purple on February 3rd. Go Ravens!

## Ravens pride shines in prep for Sunday night

"I just want to say, if the Ravens win, FFC food will be terrific."

**F**irst of all, RAVENS NATION BABY. Ehem.

But more seriously, this is one of the most casually astute predictions I have ever heard. As you all very well know, Baltimore City is a collection of eccentric and often clashing neighborhoods.

But if one thing unifies its residents, it's aggressive men in tight purple pants.

True story time: I was walking through the Waverly Giant during one of the regular season games when an older man came onto the intercom. He politely excused himself and then proceeded to announce the score of the current game, to much cheering from the shoppers. He then made it his business to periodically announce updates at regular intervals. I call that community.

Oh! Another time, one casual Sunday afternoon, a friend and I were walking around Mt. Vernon. I just so happened to be wearing a purple shirt. In less than one hour, my friend and I had made more friends than Facebook. Purple has an eerie influence over Baltimore residents. It's like the Force but without the complicated invisible aspect.

There are major ramifications to this purple potential. Not only can Ravens success improve cafeteria food, I predict that it can improve quality of life. Yes, I am about to get super practical. Let me explain. With the new Security Bulletin email alerts, I'm not going to lie, safety has become a much more pressing matter in my mind. Now picture this scenario. You've intelligently decided to walk through a dark and sketchy alleyway after midnight. You hear footsteps in the shadows, but the shadows are just as dark as the rest of the dark alleyway, so you cannot see where they are coming from. You

begin to get nervous and realize that this would be a good time to be able to use the Force. Suddenly, a kid jumps you from behind! He tackles you the ground and demands your wallet. But then he notices that you're wearing a Raven's jersey, and loot-less, takes off running. Why? Ravens fans stick together. Nobody tolerates civil strife in the football world. I'm going to venture that not even Moses could part the purple seas. I mean, you've got Ray

Lewis on your back, and nobody can touch Ray Lewis. Moral of this story? Stop walking through dark alleys, silly. Also, I can't imagine what might've happened if you had been wearing a Steelers jersey.

Of course,

I hardly support the out-of-hand rivalries between fans. Fans punching each other over games, flipping tables. You guys are doing it all wrong! The players are getting paid to beat each other up. You, on the other hand, have no excuse, or reasonable incentive (to the tune of several million dollars.) So sit your butt back down and pass the wings.

On the other hand, I am, of course, a total fan of the community aspect. One of the most violent sports in America is ironically the most uniting. Come game day, the city is lit up with purple lights, decked out with purple banners, alive with purple, purple, purple. Even the super hipster, One World Café has decided to jump on the proverbial

bandwagon and add purple décor to the windows. Of course, it's got to be good for business.

Okay, I'm going to be honest. Football fandom is a relatively new universe for me. I used to be that girl.

But it's not my fault. With no brothers, a foreign mother and a nerdy dad, football was the last thing on my interest list. But now, well, I'm freaking psyched for this game. And with good reason.

Of course, everyone knows that the coaches are brothers. This is the greatest sibling rivalry match-up since Serena and Venus Williams (Maybe. I don't actually know anything about sibling rivalries in sports.) And regardless of whether or not our Hopkins meal times are improved by game outcome, I cannot imagine it will be a pleasant dining experience around the Harbaugh dinner table.

None of us are strangers to the sweetness of sibling rivalry victory (unless you're an only child. Then, well, this is awkward.) But for some reason, the personal component makes this game all the more compelling.

Also, let's talk about destiny. Ray Lewis' favorite word. He gets to do the last Squirrel ever in the Super Dome. It is going to be awesome. Speaking of Ray Lewis, SNL did a fantastic pre-game sketch where [SPOILER ALERT] pseudo-Ray exclaims that if the Ravens win the Super Bowl, he is going to kneel at the fifty-yard line and ascend into Heaven. (What about your promise, Lewis?)

Then there is also the fact that neither of these

teams has ever lost a Super Bowl game. So basically, this makes the taste of loss for the losing team all the more bitter. Which is what our food will be, if we do lose.

But I am no Negative Nancy. Because we are going to do awesomely fantastic come game day. (Knock on wood.) In fact, I will be so bold as to make some game day predictions of my own.

If the Ravens win, FFC food will not only be terrific, it will be unsurpassable. It will be so good that Georgina Rupp of the *Delicious Dining: The Phenomenon* column on A9 (which is fantastic, by the way) will abandon all hope of Baltimore restaurant hopping and start reviewing campus food instead.

If the Ravens win, not only will late night have extra crispy bacon, they'll have those cheesy omelets that everyone with a penchant for cheese and omelets loves.

Heck, maybe they'll even let us put fries in the take-out cups again!

Maybe the "free jukebox after 9 p.m." rule will turn into "free jukebox after 9 a.m."

rule. If the Ravens win, perhaps the awkward hours between mealtimes will suddenly become slightly less awkward.

If the Ravens win, Sterling Brunch will serve ambrosia on diamond plates and regular meal times will feature ice sculptures of Joe Flacco with music by a local high school marching band.

If the Ravens win, I will buy a meal plan this semester.

But enough if's, possibilities and predictions. Game Day is quickly approaching and things are ABOUT TO GET REAL. Get ready for the only time in the year that commercials and strange superstitions are not only acceptable but expected. Grab your Ravens jersey, an upperclassman with cable and start fasting. It's going to be freaking delicious.

**Sophia Gauthier**

So They Say

This is a reaction

column to the bizarre

college student quotes

that sometimes make it

past our mental filter,

so stay witty! (Seriously,

I might run out of ideas.)

O f course,

I hardly support the out-

of-hand rivalries between

fans. Fans punching each

other over games, flipping

tables. You guys are doing

it all wrong! The players are

getting paid to beat each

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day, the city is lit up with purple lights, decked out with purple banners, alive with purple, purple, purple.

Even the super hipster, One World Café has decided to jump on the proverbial

So They Say

is here. This is the place for restaurants, fashion, fitness, cooking, relationships, lifestyle and trends

## Hannah Decatur Tweets of the Week

This weekly column features some of the top posts around the Twitter realm that deal with the week's top stories in sports, politics, pop culture and all things news.

## A toast to Hopkins

**S**o, it's finally here. My final semester.

When I was a freshman, I thought, "Heck, these seniors aren't really that much older than me. We're basically the same, we're all college students."

I was wrong.

Three and a half years is not that long of a time in the scheme of life. When I was a freshman, I've changed a lot. I've become far less self-centered and far more independent. I've packed my brain with terms like "aposematic coloration" and "astropolitics," images of far off galaxies, maps of ancient civilizations, and countless books and articles.

I've spent months living in the rainforest of Brazil.

The kid who walked nervously up

The Beach

is now a

man who is

ready walk

away for

good.

But I am no Negative Nancy.

Because we are going

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s semester.

But on other days—

most days—I look toward

May 23 with a mix of emp

tress and nostalgia (alre

ady...).

I've been in school for

a solid 18 years. I don

t know any other way of

life. Sure, I've had sum

mer jobs, and spent long

periods of time living independently outside of school. But

BUT ALSO observations, rants, lists, thoughts, feelings, missed connections, haikus, confessions, furtive glances and, of course, sex.

## Hampden food market garners high praise

**D**evoted Baltimore gourmands assure that Hampden's Food Market offers savory dining experiences within walking distance of the Homewood campus. We've relentlessly spent a year and a half restaurant-going, documenting the locations that cater to our insatiable appetites along the way.

We believe that the Market offers an experience surpassing a gourmand's primary desire for excellent food.

The sophisticated, airy, and sleek atmosphere of The Food Market undoubtedly raises its fare to the next level.

The Food Market, which opened in June, is unique in both food and feel from most other restaurants on the Avenue.

Perhaps the restaurant attracts a slightly different crowd than other Hampden joints because of its daring culinary approaches to comfort food.

Upon walking into The Food Market, we completely forgot we were in Hampden.

The huge crowd, sophisticated décor and bustling waiters made the restaurant feel as though it were picked right out of Baltimore's busy Inner Harbor and placed in the quieter Hampden area.

Characterized by a large room with high ceilings, the Market's indoor space can be fairly noisy (depending on the crowd).

However, as New Yorkers, we are quite accustomed to speaking over a loud restaurant crowd, and the noise was not an issue during our dining experience.

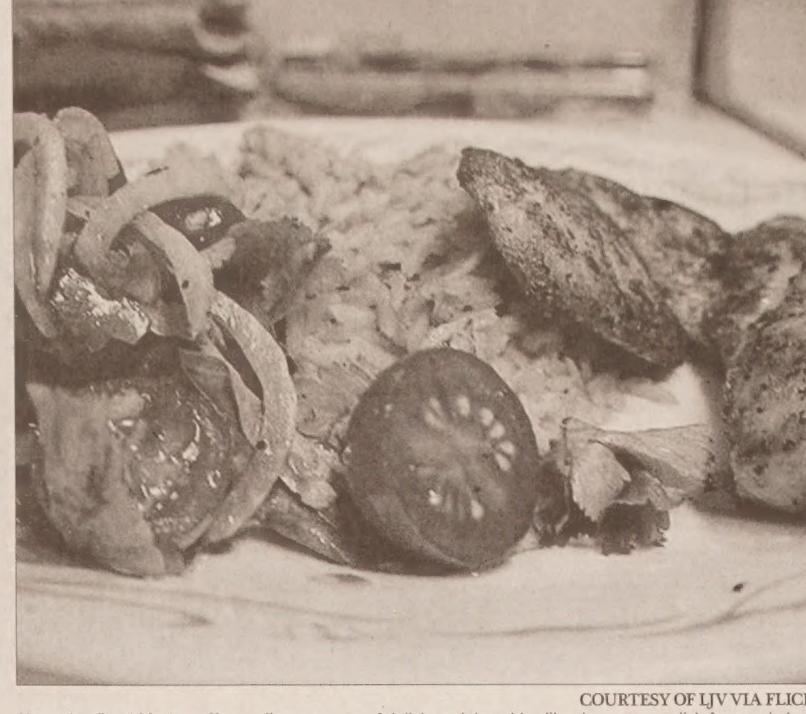
Instead, we viewed the crowd as a familiar and encouraging display, and we eagerly sat down at our table.

Instead of the typical "appetizer" and "entrée" meal options, The Food Market's menu offers four different portion sizes: "little", "small", "big" and "in between."

Never in the entirety of our restaurant-reviewing careers have we come across a restaurant that acknowledges the fact that eaters can consume different amounts of the same dish. So, Chef Gauss, WE THANK YOU!

Though we very much admired and appreciated the new serving-size approach, it did not help our infamously indecisive ordering habits.

After perusing the menu for half an hour and finding ourselves still undecided, we sought guidance from our waitress, Nicole. Without hesita-



COURTESY OF LJV VIA FLICKR

Hampden Food Market offers a diverse range of delicious delectables like the gourmet dish featured above.

tion, she recommended the Griddled Lamb Porterhouses with espresso, pecan, apricots and limoncello.

We trusted her judgement and ordered the embellished Griddled Lamb

along with Risotto Crusted Mozzarella in tomato

sauce, a Chopped

S a l a d w i t h c r e a m

c h e e s e , b r u s s e l s p r o u t s ,

b e e t s , m a c n u t

c r u m b l e a n d c r a n b e r r y

d r e s s i n g .

For our entrées we chose another of Nicole's suggestions: Chilean Sea

Bass with spinach and

grains and Truffle Par-

mesan Fries. The lamb

chops and mozzarella

held true to their "little"

size and provided a per-

fect preview to the rest

of our delicious dinner.

The four bite-sized lamb

chops were packed with

flavor; the espresso rub

enhanced the taste of the

lamb chop while the ari-

icot supplied an unex-

pected but welcomed sweet-

ness.

The Risotto Crusted

Mozzarella was a very so-

phisticated take on every-

one's favorite mozzarella

stick. The crunchy risot-

to contrasted the warm,

melting mozzarella cen-

ter, leaving us fighting for

the last bite. The Chopped

Salad was a slightly bigger

portion and turned out to be sweeter than we

originally anticipated, but

it definitely did not disap-

point.

Each ingredient was

so individually tasty that,

when joined, the salad

naturally became a dan-

gerously delectable com-

bination.

Our mouths were left watering after the first round of food, and we waited for the upcoming entrees with sky-high expectations.

Although we typically try to avoid corny analogies, our faces can be de-

scribed only like

t h o s e

of children on

Christm a s

m o r n i n g

a s the

Chilean

Sea Bass approached our

table. All self-discipline

vanished after the first

course, and we dove in

forks in hand.

The Chilean Sea Bass practically melted under the touch of our utensils. The fish was generously seasoned, making the mild flavor of the grains and spinach impeccable.

Needless to say, the tender fish and bed of sautéed spinach and grains quickly disappeared.

When the need to come up for air arose, we broke with the Truffle Parmesan Fries, which were nothing short of ad-

dicting.

Once there was nothing left on our plates, we gratefully and excitedly accepted the dessert menu.

Three dishes concluded the evening: Milk Chocolate Pot du

Crème with pretzels and

whipped cream, Heath

Bar Bread Pudding with

condensed milk car-

amel and whipped cream,

along with "Pretend It's

Your Birthday" chadvel

ice cream cake, topped

with raspberry syrup and

a candle.

All were extremely sat-

isfying, but the signature Heath Bar Bread Pudding was our decided favorite.

On another visit to The Food Market, we decided to share and test a larger number of dishes to maximize the amount of menu items tasted.

We loved everything from pretzels with rich

Beer Cheese fondue, to the

Duck Confit potato skins,

to (our favorite) Pork Belly.

A single mouthful of the Pork Belly melts on your tongue and explodes with flavor.

Part of the fun in visiting The Food Market

is the constantly changing menu, for there are always new dishes with unexpected ingredient and flavor combinations.

Though we recommend making reservations on weekends, you can enjoy the bar's creative cocktails if you visit spontaneously and have to wait for a table.

After both visits, we left The Food Market extremely pleased with the exceedingly delicious food and great service.

Before visiting the well-reviewed Market, we almost expected the waiters to be the "professional yet distant" type.

Instead, we were greeted by friendly smiles, honest opinions and fun personalities that hopped from table to table. The positive attitude of each member of the wait staff gave The Food Market a casual yet sophisticated feel.

The amiable servers combined with delicious meals makes The Food Market a spot we return to time and again.

Take the time to enjoy a meal at The Food Market before Restaurant Week ends!

## HIP HOP

## Religion, relationships, and post-Hopkins plans

**D**ear AskMani, (Applied Math) that I dislike and I'm not sure what to do. Sincerely, Unapplied Math.

Dear Unapplied Math, Have you talked to your department advisor about this? Perhaps your advisor can help you use your major in a way that is more suitable to your interests.

### AskMani

### Advice Columnist

Dear AskMani, I really want a boyfriend but I haven't gotten one yet and I don't know what I'm doing wrong. Sincerely, MissTreated

Dear MissTreated, Start by respecting yourself, and let him know what your expectations are. If he doesn't want to meet them then you should rethink being in the relationship.

Dear AskMani, I'm a senior and I feel like I've wasted the last four years of my life. I picked a major

yet and I don't know what I'm doing wrong. Sincerely, Longing for Love

Dear Longing for Love, The fact that you REALLY want a boyfriend may be part of the issue. If guys can tell that you're desperate, they will use you or won't even consider you. Focus your attention on something more productive. Take care of yourself inside and out and it won't be long before someone takes an interest in you.

## Pilot: HopLove Anonymous

**G**ot a secret crush in Chem class? Want to shout-out to your best bud down the hall? We at *The News-Letter* want to help you to officiate your anonymous veneration. The most creative and heart-felt affirmations will be published in our newest column, HopLove Anonymous. Submit your declarations of admiration to [hiphop@jhunewsletter.com](mailto:hiphop@jhunewsletter.com). Let the arrows fly!

"Mr. Arthur at the Rec Center desk deserves a special shoutout. Everyday, without fail, he's there bright and early at 6 a.m. (meaning he must have to leave his home around 5 a.m.) to meet and greet the exercise enthusiasts, however few of us there are. We'd never find a student to commit to such a dreadful yet essential shift. What would we do without his morning cheers?"

-AvidAthlete

"Matt Mercede is one of the most wonderful people I know at Hopkins. He can effortlessly bring immense joy and positivity into the lives of people around him. His simplicity, innocence, and kindness are endearing qualities that will undoubtedly take him very far in life. Matt, I am sure all your friends love you as much if not more than you love the FFC and chinchillas. I hope you have a most wonderful semester ahead and continue to spread happiness to many others around you."

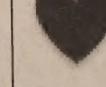
-NotOneOfYourResidents

"Josh Scaralia, I freaking love you. Hahaha yeah you know who this is. Anonymous my butt. I hope you find this embarrassing but you probably won't since you are super cool. Thank you for always being there for me, having the same sense of humor as me (that's rare, that is), and just being an all around amazing guy. I would say that the world needs more of you but in reality, I think that would just be super confusing. I love you, Josh!"

-Discipline

Want to give a shout out to your special someone?

Submit to



**HopLove**  
**Anonymous**

Send all professions of romantic or platonic love to

[hiphop@jhunewsletter.com](mailto:hiphop@jhunewsletter.com).

The most heartfelt and creative affirmations will be published in the next column.

**D**o you drive on the same side of the road in Canada? Is there a time change? Do you have a pet beaver? Do you live in an igloo? Do you have a polar bear? Isn't it always snowing in Canada? Do you play hockey?

I'll stop there, but let there be no mistake, I have faced hundreds of similarly ridiculous questions during my time in the United States.

I never realized how one-sided our relationship is. Most Canadians know the answers to basic questions concerning the United States.

The same, sadly, is not true of Americans. The vast majority of United States citizens cannot answer even the simplest of questions about Canada, or come up with far-off, incorrect impressions.

**Ellen Brait**  
**Lifestyle Columnist**

Some Americans argue that this disparity is because the United States is more important than Canada. I won't begin to describe how condescending some of my American acquaintances have been about the country I live in.

While in the large scheme of things, the United States truly is more important than Canada, shouldn't a powerhouse like the US know about the country it shares a border with?

Only a country as arrogant as the United States could know so little about a country that is literally connected to it.

Another interesting occurrence during my time in the US is the general reaction of friends to the fact that I'm Canadian.

People that I have known for months will suddenly notice and comment on my very apparent accent when they find out where I'm from.

All at once, it becomes apparent that I say "about" strangely.

It is clear that people begin looking for and pointing out our speech differences. They reassure me that they observed my "accent" all along; they just didn't say anything until now. This reoccurring story, as plausible as it seems, gets a little old after the tenth time you've heard it.

Now, based on my prior commentary, it may seem like I hate Americans and their country. However, this assumption is entirely false. I have loved studying and living in the United States.

States. I came specifically because I believe that the universities here offer a better education in what I hope to pursue. I'm just not a huge fan of people's reaction to my nationality.

I will never hear the end of it if I bash Americans, but I'll note that Americans tend to be the overtly patriotic type. We get it; you love your country -enough already!

Additionally, Americans see no problem in endlessly mocking my country. I wouldn't mind the jokes as much, so long as they were more original. I seriously cannot take hearing someone incorrectly tack "eh" onto the end of a random sentence one more time.

There's a proper time and place, people. If you can't use the word you're mocking me with correctly, then please, for both of our sakes, don't use it at all.

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

THE JOHNS HOPKINS  
**NEWS-LETTER**

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

**Editorial**

## Summit draws attention to problem

On Jan. 14 and 15, Hopkins hosted the Summit on Reducing Gun Violence in America. The Summit's 450 participants included New York Mayor and Hopkins alumnus Michael Bloomberg, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and Hopkins President Ron Daniels. Each presented research findings and a set of policy recommendations to curb gun violence. The Summit's final proposals include establishing a universal background check system, instituting federal restrictions of gun purchases for the mentally ill, banning the sale of assault weapons and high capacity magazines and providing funds to research organizations to better understand the causes of and solutions to gun violence.

This page enthusiastically supports the Summit on Reducing Gun Violence and commends the University for hosting it.

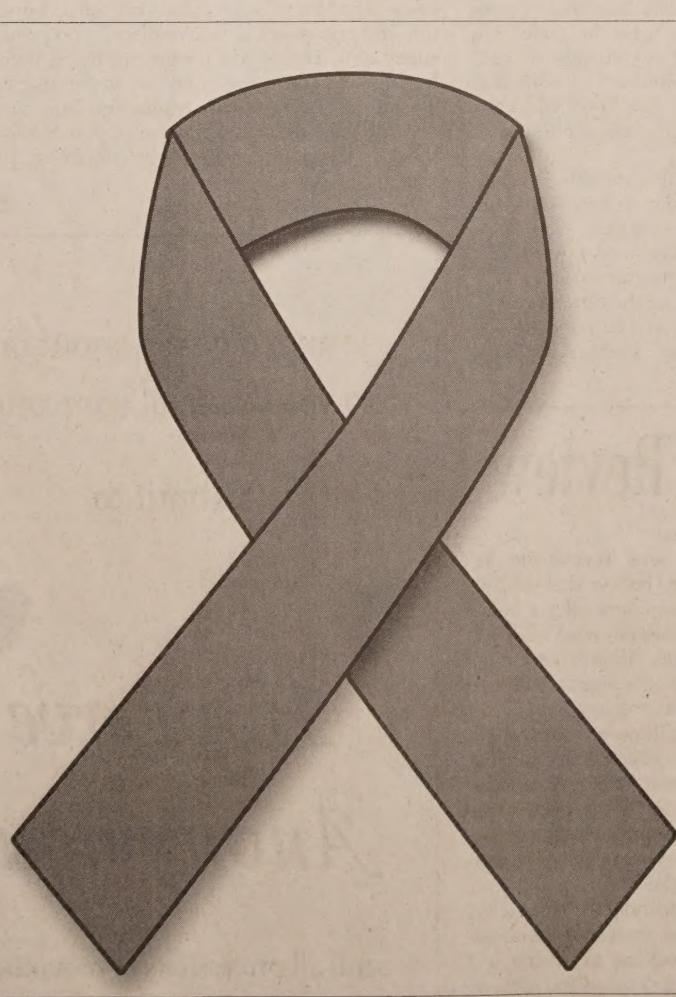
The shooting at Sandy Hook shocked the conscience of the nation. The thought of young children and helpless teachers gunned down led many to call for change. To prevent another Sandy Hook, a majority of Americans reported that they support more firearm regulations. But as history suggests, public support for such legislative action often diminishes when time wears on and the disturbing images subside. To this end, it is vital that we continue to press for reform and keep up the national dialogue. The summit has done just this. By bringing together the nation's leading experts on guns and mental health, along with prominent elected officials, Hopkins has kept the memory of Sandy Hook

alive and has sustained the pressure for reform.

Furthermore, Hopkins has the unique capability to actually enact effective gun control legislation. As the nation's leading research institution, Hopkins can provide elected officials and the public with clear and concise data on the importance of gun control and the dangers of unregulated firearms. Since much of the existing information on gun control is often contradictory and inconclusive, Hopkins's work will be particularly effective. As the University's motto suggests, exposing the public and elected officials to the truths of firearms will contribute to the effort of enacting strong and lasting legislation.

But the summit is not only important to the nation. It is also important to Hopkins and Baltimore. Gun violence is not something that just happens in elementary schools or in shopping malls. The mass shootings that grab the nation's attention are only the tip of the iceberg. Dozens more die in Baltimore every year than died at Columbine and Sandy Hook combined. There were 217 homicides in Baltimore last year, most of them gun-related. In a merely self-interested sense, the University suffers when Baltimore suffers. A more dangerous city not only takes the lives of innocent Americans, but it also affects the reputation and rating of the University. Increased violence gives pause to students contemplating spending four years in Baltimore. Reducing such violence will not only help the nation, it will help Hopkins and the City of Baltimore.

**Anne Faber**



**The News-Letter remembers Steven Muller, the 10th president of the University.**

**Elle Pfeffer**



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# OPINIONS

## Constant conflict: The normalization of violence in the Middle East

By BAYLY WINDER

**O**t all the regions of the world, the Middle East has the unfortunate honor of being the most comfortable with violence. Since World War II and the slow and painful withdrawal of European colonialism, the people of the Middle East have experienced violence in seemingly limitless forms.

The Algerian War of Independence from France in the 1950s and 1960s, for instance, was marked by the National Liberation Front's guerrilla warfare and the French Army's brutal repression. The Lebanese Civil War, which lasted from 1975 to 1990, demonstrated the intensity of sectarian conflict and the impact of intervention by both regional and international players. The negative ramifications of the 2003 American-led invasion of Iraq can still be felt to this day. The cliché of terrorism on both sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict is painfully well-developed. After decades of

inconceivable hostility, there are no signs that the most agonizing fight in the neighborhood will come to a close anytime soon. The Arab Spring, which began in December of 2010, has of course resulted in a spike in the regional death toll.

The international media's treatment of death and destruction in the Middle East today is evidence of just how

sad truth is that few people are surprised when such incidents occur, and the loss of a typical Arab life rarely qualifies as front page news.

One of the results of such frequent armed conflict is the strength of Middle Eastern militaries. As such, the line between political and military leaders is often obscure. This is the case not only in the many Arab dic-

institution. It was, after all, the head of the army who recently warned of "state collapse," not the head of state.

The fixation of Middle Eastern governments on military strength has been extremely costly. In the ranking of countries by military expenditure as a percentage of GDP, the seven top spots are all from the region. The top three — Oman,

Qatar and Saudi Arabia — are in the double-digits. By contrast, the American figure is only around 4 percent.

Arms deals, especially in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), are reaching astronomical numbers. In 2010, Saudi Arabia made an unprecedented purchase of \$60 billion from the United States. This seems partic-

ularly perplexing in the case of the oil-rich GCC members who are firmly under the protection of the Americans.

In October of last year, the Lebanese government responded angrily to the depiction of

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.



Members of the Free Syrian Army commandeer a tank from government forces in the western city of Al-Qusayr in March 2012.

COURTESY OF FLICKR.COM/SYRIA FREEDOM

commonplace it is. While news about the Syrian Civil War is fairly easy to track down, finding out about a suicide attack in southern Yemen or an exchange of fire in Iraq often requires thorough research. The

tatorships, but also in the largely democratic countries such as Turkey and Israel.

As Egypt emerges from a revolution, President Mohammed Morsi is still dealing with a vocal and well-entrenched military

and

Bayly Winder is a junior Political Science major from Princeton, N.J. He is the Middle East columnist for The News-Letter.

## Doping threatens the future of cycling

By JAMES CAMERON

**T**he Lance Armstrong saga seems to be finally drawing to a close. After months of equivocating, the former cyclist's deception has finally been exposed. In a sport plagued by doping, Armstrong was simply the best — at doping. In a world of cheaters he was king.

This realization has led many people to question if doping is actually cheating. Does it grant an unfair advantage or does it simply level the playing field? I'll argue that doping is indeed cheating and considering it to be anything else sends a dangerous message to the athletes of the future.

As children, professional athletes learn the same lessons as the rest of us: Cheating is bad, cheating is something that is never justifiable and if you know someone who is cheating you should say something. Yet these lessons seem to be forgotten by professional athletes. Those who are caught cheating frequently claim that "everyone else was doing it, and in order to stay competitive I had to as well."

Like a herd of animals, these athletes simply follow in the footsteps of cheaters, blaming their poor decisions on what is basically peer pressure. What they seem to have forgotten is breaking the rules is always cheating, regardless of whether other competitors are doing it or not.

It has become apparent that the entire U.S. Postal Service Team was engaged in doping, all under the leadership of

Armstrong, who bullied and threatened teammates into joining his doping program. Each member of that team knew what they were doing was against the rules, and the only reason they were doing it was to gain an unfair advantage over their

his cheating has been exposed, though, those wins have been stripped away, their validity destroyed by the drugs he took.

For anyone who loves the sport of cycling, this is a huge disappointment. An icon of the sport, a man who stood for perseverance and toughness, was revealed to be nothing more than a fraud.

Cyclists who looked up to Armstrong as youths now have to come to grips with the fact a supposed champion is nothing of the sort.

Rather than serve as a role model, Armstrong has destroyed the faith that riders have put into the sport.

The responsibility for changing the doping culture rests with two groups. The athletes themselves must take the primary role.

They have allowed doping, simply turning a blind eye to its presence at best, and demanding doping from teammates at worst.

There must be pressure from within their own elite ranks to change this reality.

Of course, pressure must come from the outside as well. Cycling leagues and anti-doping organizations must fulfill their duties with

greater consistency, punishing — and if necessary, banning — athletes from their sport.

These measures are in the best interests of both groups, because allowing the doping culture to continue will bring nothing but harm to cycling.



Armstrong admitted to using performance-enhancing drugs in a recent interview.

competitors. Doping is always cheating and there can be no justification for it.

Doping by Armstrong and other professional athletes did more than just end their respective careers; it also damaged the future of their sports. By cheating, athletes tarnish the accomplishments that made them so incredible.

Armstrong was an undisputed juggernaut of cycling, winning title after title. Now that

James Cameron is a freshman International Studies major from Boston, Mass.

Kaushik Rao

## Cameron's course causes economic uncertainty

**T**he European Union is teetering on survival as the member nations decide the fates of their fellow debt-ridden countries. Another blow to the unsteady Union came from Prime Minister David Cameron's government in the U.K.

Last week, Cameron gave a speech in which he indicated that his government would be ambivalent to the prospects of Britain remaining a member of the E.U.

This was largely done as a political move to please the British public, which is unhappy with the state of the E.U. and would rather opt out of the dysfunctional economic agreements that are reached every couple of months.

Granted, turmoil in Greece, Spain, France and Poland would give any nation pause before entering into an economic union with these countries. Since the Labour Party is currently ahead of the Tories in the polls, it was almost necessary for Cameron to appease the public with a negative stance on the E.U.

More specifically, Cameron acknowledged that Britain would lose economic benefits with its largest trading partner if it were to withdraw its membership, but he also claimed that he would prefer for the E.U. to be a looser union of countries with less regulation.

He subsequently stated that Britain could have it either way when it comes to membership in the Union. He proclaimed that if his party were to win the next elections, he would create a revised membership status for Britain in the E.U.

This would then be put up for a vote in a 2017 or 2018 referendum which would then determine whether Britain actually removes itself from the Union of which it has been a member since 1973.

Again, this stance by Cameron has provided him with much needed political support and a boost in the polls. But the

long-term consequences are going to be much more drastic. This stance creates five years of uncertainty in Britain's foreign markets. Therefore, willing investors are now less likely to invest money in the E.U. and the United Kingdom. Britain's economy is already sluggish and this announcement will only further cloud the ability for the economy in Europe to recover.

The bottom line is that this referendum may or may not happen. If the referendum does not happen, then Cameron will have unnecessarily caused five years of economic downturn which could have been used for economic recovery. With the upcoming elections in Germany and Italy, it may not even matter whether Britain remains a part of the E.U.

And if Cameron wants to affect change in the E.U., he would be better off doing it as a member of the Union rather than an outsider who voluntarily left the compact. His current tactics will only cause further problems for the European economy and won't do anything to alleviate the sluggish economies of Europe.

The ambivalence shown by the British government was just another disappointing action taken by European governments, which should be entirely focused on regaining solvency and lowering borrowing rates. If Cameron was trying to create more political or economic stability with this announcement, he ended up doing the opposite. The world economy does not need any more self-inflicted wounds from austerity movements. The only proper course of action at this point is to continue to support investment and economic growth in Europe.

Kaushik Rao is a sophomore Political Science and Economics double major from Yorba Linda, Calif. He is a staff writer for The News-Letter.

3.87 GPA.  
1563 SAT SCORES.  
FUTURE RHODES SCHOLAR.



## THICK AS A BRICK WHEN IT COMES TO CROSSING THE STREET.

You're smart, and you've got the class schedule to prove it. Engineering Thermodynamics, Riemannian Geometry and Advanced Portuguese are no match for you. Then why is it hard to remember to be alert when crossing the street? Odds are the guy driving the SUV barreling toward you is no rocket scientist. So you've got to be street smart, as well as book smart.

Be A Road Scholar.

JOHNS HOPKINS  
UNIVERSITY

BE A  ROAD SCHOLAR

# THE B SECTION

Your Weekend • Arts & Entertainment • Cartoons, Etc. • Science & Technology • Sports

JANUARY 31, 2013

## Robotic arm reaches toward success

Drinking affects cognitive  
functions in adolescents

Cats may be deadlier  
than you think



By Janson Trieu

See Science  
Pages B7-B9

# YOUR WEEKEND JAN 31-FEB 3

## Some unexpected stress over break

**S**ince I haven't written a column in about a month, I feel a tad bit rusty, but what the heck? I'll give it a go as if I were a seasoned vet.

I didn't do intersession like some people as I prefer to keep my long breaks long, but I do have a handful of stories to share about all my goings-on and mishaps during the break.

To start it all off, let's begin with the glorious tale of Christmas shopping ... on the 23rd of December.

Let me place this here as a warning to everyone out there: do try to get your shopping done relatively early.

You may be thinking, "whatever, I live for the thrill of it all!"

One, that's sad. Two, no. Just no.

I am the unfortunate person who could have been sitting by the fire

sipping my hot chocolate while Hell froze over outside.

Haha, nope!

I was driving through huge layers of snow trying to make my way to the mall to buy gifts for my whole family. Not only did snow act as a barrier but the massive amount of people at the mall made it an uncomfortable experience.

Honestly, when you have to carry a ridiculous amount of bags on your arms and you're cramped in an elevator (mainly the back corner where nobody would notice if you died) and the amount of body heat generated could keep a light bulb on for a few days, the whole experience proves itself to be rather unpleasant.

Use my idiotic mistake as a warning: don't Christmas shop late!

The rest of my vacation, honestly, was a bit of a whir: from a New Years spent asking myself why Dick Clarke had to die, to my last drawn-out day home.

My vacation started off with a bang, because how can we not describe late Christmas shopping any other way? And it ended with a lingering whimper.

My flight to Baltimore was scheduled to leave around 7:40 p.m. and arrive at 9:20 p.m.

Nope, not even close. Michigan, being Michigan, decided to host a snowstorm that caused my plane to arrive late and covered in snow. How does an airport remedy that, you ask?

Simple, they hose it down for a cumulative time of two hours with some strange liquid ... three times.

Suffice to say, I didn't arrive in Baltimore at 9:20 p.m.

Well, I hope everyone's first few days were as swift and merciful as an execution and that you're all able to trudge along until Friday.



COURTESY OF PETIT LOUIS BISTRO VIA FACEBOOK

## Experience B'more's Restaurant Week

By ALEXA KWIATKOSKI  
Your Weekend Editor

Baltimore has a lot of great restaurants. Unfortunately, many of these don't fit in the average college student's budget.

But every winter there is a magical time they call Restaurant Week.

This is when you can get a 3 course dinner for a reasonable (albeit not cheap) fixed price.

At first, your reaction is, "big deal," but think about it for a moment.

Restaurant week means that those extremely expensive restaurants you could never afford are suddenly an actual possibility for a Saturday night dinner.

Take, for example, The Capital Grille. My mom and I went to this extremely nice, extremely tasty Steakhouse over winter break. Our meal for two cost upwards of \$130.

Thankfully, Mom was paying.

But for Restaurant Week, you can go to the Capital Grille in the Inner Harbor and get a full 3

course meal for \$30.13.

I highly recommend it. For those who don't like steak, there are plenty of other delicious options.

I also suggest checking out Marie Louise Bistro in Mt. Vernon. While this place isn't as expensive as The Capital Grille, a fixed price meal here certainly won't be a waste.

This cute, fancy restaurant specializes in Creole-inspired French cuisine. Their brunch is especially good.

You could also get a \$30 dinner at Petit Louis Bistro near Roland Park. This is a very nice little restaurant with great French cuisine. Usually very pricey, Restaurant Week makes Petit Louis a more affordable option.

Another recommendation I'd like to make is for the B&O Brasserie in the Monaco Hotel Baltimore. Located in the city's former Railroad Headquarters, this restaurant specializes in hearty American cuisine. Dishes are often made with local Baltimore ingredients.

And if you have time,

I suggest taking a walk around the hotel lobby. It's a beautiful old building, and the marble staircase is particularly impressive.

Also, if you don't feel like going far for dinner, there's the obvious choice of Gertrude's for a Restaurant Week night out. Conveniently located in the nearby Baltimore Museum of Art, Gertrude's offers a great variety of dishes. They are especially known for their Maryland crab cakes.

These are just a few options to consider.

For a complete list of participating restaurants, check out baltimorerestaurantweek.com. This site gives you each restaurant's neighborhood, special prices and the days they offer their fixed 3 course meal.

There's bound to be something you'll like.

Starting a new semester is never easy. But Restaurant Week is a bright spot on the horizon of this dreary winter time.

So take advantage of it, and go eat some delicious Baltimore food!



COURTESY OF HOWARD WALFISH VIA FLICKR  
Snow storms this winter made flying over break difficult. Here the wings of a plane are getting de-iced.

## JHU and B'more Happenings

### Thursday Jan. 31

Baltimore Restaurant Week Lunch & Dinner

Luckily, the first week of classes coincides with Baltimore's Winter Restaurant Week. This means that some of Baltimore's best restaurants offer 3 course meals for a fixed price of \$30.13 or \$20.13. Some of them even offer a two course lunch menu for \$15.13. For the more expensive places, this is definitely a bargain! So if you're hungry this weekend, make sure to check out that nice restaurant you've always wanted to try. Event runs until Feb. 3.

The Mountaintop 7 p.m.  
Centerstage Theater

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968 is the subject of Centerstage's current play, The Mountaintop.

It tells the story of a thought-provoking interaction between Dr. King and a hotel maid. The show runs until Feb. 24. Don't miss the Baltimore premiere of this exciting play.



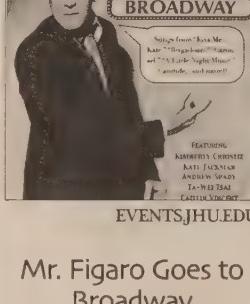
Beauty and The Beast 7:30 p.m.  
The Hippodrome

Broadway's Beauty and the Beast is about to end its run at the Hippodrome, but you have until Feb. 3 to catch the classic Disney musical.



BALTIMORE.BROADWAY.COM

### Friday Feb. 1



Mr. Figaro Goes to Broadway 7:30 p.m.  
Germano's Trattoria

The Figaro Project presents an evening of Broadway hits, including music from Guys and Dolls, Kiss Me Kate, A Little Night Music and other Broadway classics. The show features a talented cast of Peabody alumni. Cover is \$10.

I-Show: The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged 8 p.m.  
Arellano Theater, Levering

The Barnstormers present this year's In-

tersession Show: The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged. It's a comedy summarizing the works of Shakespeare in 97 minutes, so of course it's going to be fun. If you miss Friday's show, there's another Saturday night, same time and place. And you can get in with your J-card for only \$1!



The Amazing Spiderman 8 p.m.  
Gilman 50

The HOP's Friday Night Films starts off the semester with The Amazing Spiderman. Come out to Gilman for Marc Webb's exciting reboot of the Spiderman series.

Black Poetic License: Poetry Slam 9 p.m.  
Nolan's

Hopkins starts off Black History month with a Poetry Slam at Nolan's. This event focuses on what it means to be Black in the 21st century. So come out Friday night for some poetry and discussion on the topic of "Modern Blackness."

Saturday Feb. 2



Chocolate Through Time 2-4 p.m.  
Homewood Museum

Like chocolate? How about history? Come to the Homewood Museum to see how the two intertwine. Food historian Joyce

White will lecture on chocolate's cultural relevance, followed by an educational chocolate-tasting.



Grace Potter and the Nocturnals 8 p.m.  
Rams Head Live

Multi-instrumentalist Grace Potter is coming to Rams Head Live this Saturday night with her group, Grace Potter and the Nocturnals. This rock band has produced four studio albums, the most recent of which is 2012's The Lion the Beast The Beat. If you miss the show on Saturday, another is scheduled for the night of Feb. 4. Both performances also feature the band Houndsmouth. Doors open at 7 p.m.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Even good looks didn't save *Hansel and Gretel*

The classic children's tale is retold

By FLORENCE LAU  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The past few years have seen a resurgence in revamped fairy tale stories in the media. There has been a lot of buzz around the two television shows to do so (*Once Upon a Time* and *Grimm*), and now, movies are catching up to the fad as well and reinventing a lot of our favorite childhood tales.

Unfortunately, those who were expecting deep storylines and fantastic dialogue from *Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters* should definitely not spend their money on this movie. They will find themselves wishing for a refund of both their money and the hour and a half they lost as a result of this film. The film is a very big letdown, especially for

### HANSEL AND GRETEL: WITCH HUNTERS

**Starring:** Jeremy Renner, Gemma Arterton, Famke Janssen, Pihla Viitala  
**Director:** Tommy Wirkola  
**Run Time:** 88 min.  
**Rating:** R  
**Playing at:** The Rotunda

imperious to fire, and for that, she requires the heart of a white witch, for which she targets Gretel. Along with another white witch named Mina (Pihla Viitala) and an aspiring witch hunter named Ben (Thomas Mann), Hansel is determined to save her sister as well as the children whom Muriel

SEE HANSEL, PAGE B5

## Baltimore mural exhibit showcases artwork

By VICTOR ALLARD  
For The News-Letter

As one steps out of the elevator and onto the 27th floor of the World Trade Center Baltimore, they expect the whole level to be dedicated to the Unframed: Baltimore Mural Program exhibit advertised in the lobby of the building. Instead, one might walk around the room for a few minutes before realizing that the "exhibit" consisted of 18 small photographs of murals shyly displayed along two of the inside walls. The main attraction was clearly the remarkable view, with little stands describing some of Baltimore's history. The temporary Unframed exhibit also had to share some of the space with the permanent 9/11 memorial. Others thoughts on the matter could not be garnered, as sadly, no one else was present.

Disconcertingly timid, the exhibit is inspiring nonetheless. What is this Baltimore Mural Project? Made possible by the 1974 Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, this project started in 1985. Since then, local artists all over Baltimore City have painted over 175 murals, thus brightening otherwise bland or even gloomy neighborhoods.

These painters have turned mundane buildings into works of art. Their murals are aptly described by the exhibit presentation as "iconic gateways to eclectic neighborhoods." They focus on people's interactions, natural scenes or unusual urban settings, and generally send a message of hope, perseverance and optimism.

Among the incongruous pictures in this assortment, one struck out as particularly enthusiastic. On the side of a house at

## Stand Up Comic in Society is a raging success

By SOPHIA GAUTHIER  
Hip Hop Editor

The last Friday night of Intersession culled in a large crowd despite the cold. Shriver Hall was packed full of students ready to hoot and holler for the stand-up line-up of Adam Ruben's ever-popular comedy course.

The event showcased 16 comics, most of them courageous first-timers to the genre.

Over the past three weeks, students studied the greats, paid a visit to a D.C. comedy club, and tested material on one another to prepare for the big showcase.

"We had a great class. Everyone helped each other out, you know?" junior Joshua Scaralia, a student from Friday night's line-up, said while describing the experience.

Ruben, who taught the course and is a Hopkins alumnus, warmed up the audience with a spiel of his own involving the woes of grad student life and then made appearances throughout the night as the MC.

Sophomore Grant Lease was first among the student acts and launched with a jab at poor name choices, sharing a hilarious hypothetical anecdote involving his own. He evoked the mythical "Dick Wolfe," used to frighten small children and made the crowd laugh with multiple impersonations.



COURTESY OF SOPHIA GAUTHIER

The Stand Up Comedy class delivered a hilarious performance to their fellow Hopkins students on Friday.

Scaralia performed next. He rooted his routine in his own back-country origins. During his entertaining rendition of a studly turkey walking into a trap, Scaralia sauntered shamelessly across the stage and garnered a hearty laugh and appreciative applause with his ultimate college-flavored punch line.

Sophomore Kishore Bharadwaj was next to appear, kicking off his act with a fresh and funny spin on the shortcomings of TSA and Baltimore's sketch scene,

both of which are popular pieces of comedic fodder. However, he will probably be most remembered for unexpectedly chugging the entirety of his water bottle at the urging of the crowd.

Bharadwaj was followed by senior Jeremy Fama, who brought Awkward Turtle to the mic, poking fun at the infamous lax bros and the evil undertones of JHU Crush. He closed by dragging a stubborn mic stand across the stage like a roller backpack.

Up next was junior An-

drew Carey (yes, his name is Andrew Carey), a tall, lanky and laidback guy, who entertained the crowd in his self-professed nerd-dom with a series of online chess euphemisms.

The laughter was rolling as freshman Noor Khali took the stage and garnered rapport with his overseas innocence and endearing accent. He packed his time onstage with confusion regarding American marriage customs and English

SEE STAND UP, PAGE B4

## Last Week Live Randy Houser

Last Friday night, Rams Head Live was chock-full of flannel shirts, cowboy boots and little white dresses swinging their badonkadonks for Randy Houser, an up-and-coming country music artist. Houser began his career as a songwriter, penning such hits as Tracy Adkins' "Honky Tonk Badonkadonk." A few years later, he released his first single, "Anything Goes."

The concert opened with Jenny Leigh Freeman, a Frederick, Md. native with a burgeoning career in the Nashville country music industry.

Even two hours before

Houser graced the stage, the venue was packed and ready to hear Freeman sing. She sang a mix of her own songs and covers. Since not many people knew her songs, the crowd went crazy during her performance of Little Big Town's "Little White Church."

This popular song showed off her powerful voice, and for a moment, some of us forgot it was not actually Little Big Town singing.

The laughable size of the display could throw one off at first.

However, the more one thinks about it, the more sense it seems to make.

Much like the murals themselves, hidden throughout Baltimore for passers-by to pleasantly stumble upon, this refreshing exhibition sits quietly at the very top of one of the Inner Harbor's dullest-looking towers.

There is a certain beauty to it.

So, while you might not want to go out of your way to see this meager collection of pictures, you should definitely climb that tower if you find yourself with an hour to kill around Pratt Street.

And even if street art isn't your thing, you still get to stare into Baltimore's industrial past from the "Top of The World."

Maybe not enough to warrant the title of "Greatest City in America," but it's worth your time and five dollars.

Regardless, next time you're riding on the JHMI shuttle back from the hospital or Peabody, look up from your textbook and try to get a glimpse of the talent on display in this city.

During the show, Houser incorporated the audience into his music, turning his mic to screams of "muddy pair of jeans" and "Copenhagen ring" during an energetic performance of "Boots On."

Looking down, most concertgoers had their "boots on" for Randy Houser's show. Even during slower tunes, such as "Runnin' Outta Moonlight," his passion for the music kept the audience just as entertained. In fact, he plans to release this song in March as his next single.

In between songs, Houser spoke about life growing up in Mississippi, and the meaning behind many of his hits, giving his performance depth. This blend of stories, songs and audience participation created an unforgettable concert experience. Baltimore dug his show last Friday night.

If this concert rolls into town again, go see it. Not only does Houser deliver familiar country radio songs, but the show is also an opportunity to hear songs by new artists.

The show is a sneak peek of Houser's surefire hits to come. Country music fan or not, his music is versatile, upbeat and true, and it offers something for everyone. It's the kind of show you could bring a rock and roll fanatic to, and the next day, you would catch him listening to WPOC (Baltimore's country station).

that they did not listen to Taylor Swift or Tim McGraw, but George Strait and Alan Jackson instead. The likening of Houser's music to the giants of country music suggests that he has a bright future ahead of him.

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- Hannah Decatur



COURTESY OF VISIT BALTIMORE VIA FACEBOOK

Painting, "Many Hands Make Things Grow" by Jessie Unterhalter, is one of many to be found in Baltimore.

## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## How I Met Your Mother to finish after nine seasons

**W**hen the news came out today that *How I Met Your Mother* had been given a definite season finale date, there was probably no one as thankful as Ted Mosby's children.

After all, wouldn't you be thankful if you've been listening to the same story go on and on for eight years?

CBS officially announced on Jan. 30 that season nine would be the final season of the show, and my immediate reaction was one of relief. I'm not even one of Ted's poor children, but I fully sympathize with them, and have been ready for *HIMYM* to end for the past two or three seasons.

Not that I have anything against *HIMYM*. In fact, I loyally watch every week (mostly due to an unwillingness to just drop a show I've spent so much time on, as well as due to the occasional five-star episode) and have grown attached to most of the characters.

I simply think that every show has an expiration date if it doesn't want to grow stale and lose the charm that had attracted viewers in the first place. *HIMYM* has long since passed said expiration date.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying that every show has the exact same expiration date. Some shows have been going on for thirteen or even fourteen seasons, and they're still going strong. Go them.

In general, though, it's just sad when the writers of the shows you used to love start to run out of ideas and therefore resort to pulling desperate solu-

tions out of thin air, just so they can produce another season that many original fans aren't even going to watch anyway. That's when we all wish that they'd just let the show fade gracefully from existence rather than bringing back things that no one is interested in any more (case in point: Ted's crush on Robin? No one really cares about that anymore. Actually, no one cares about Ted anymore.)

I am of the opinion that this show should have ended two or three seasons ago. On a positive note, it seems as if the writers have been slowly working on closing out some storylines for a while now.

Given that the next season is to be the last one, I am hoping that Ted will meet the mother in the season finale in May and then spend the next season getting to know her. If we spent eight years building up to Ted meeting this woman, only to get a mere minute with her in the last bit of the show's final episode, I would feel extremely cheated, and I'm sure Ted's kids would too.

We want to get to know this woman who is apparently so important that Ted spends years and years going on about how he finally managed to find her. We want her to meet the gang, we want to find out the others' impressions and opinions of her, and we want to see Ted stop his obsession over finding the perfect woman.

After eight years, we are finally ready to meet the mother, and with all this buildup, she had better be pretty incredible.

Don't her poor children deserve that, after all these years?

By ELSHEBA ABRAHAM  
Staff Writer

It may be already three seasons in, but the craze about the British TV show *Downton Abbey* (note that it's not Down-town) is only growing in the United States.

Why it is such a hit among college students may not initially make much sense. It's not about gossip-worthy teenage drama, does not have scandalous sex scenes and does not even have people blowing up in every other episode.

In fact, the plot is pretty simple. The show is set in the *Downton Abbey* estate in the 1920s, and features the prestigious Crawley family who live there and all their interactions with each other.

However, there is more to this PBS "instant classic" than meets the eye. This show has its way of charming the viewers and causing them to wish that they made as fantastic a couple as Lord Matthew Crawley (played by Dan Stevens) and Lady Mary Crawley (Michelle Dockery) do.

*Downton Abbey* is never far away from drama. The series begins with the *Titanic* tragedy stealing *Downton's* next heir and consequently turning all eyes on Matthew Crawley, a middle-class lawyer.

As the show progresses, the audience learns to love Matthew, who, with his logic and honesty, brings new life and perspective into the family, whether the other old-fashioned Crawleys initially accept it or not. The love-hate relationship between Matthew and Mary (the eldest daughter in the Crawley family) is currently one of the most perfect relationships on TV; their subtle wit and quick banter complement each other extremely well.

As the show progresses, the audience learns to love Matthew, who, with his logic and honesty, brings new life and perspective into the family, whether the other old-fashioned Crawleys initially accept it or not. The love-hate relationship between Matthew and Mary (the eldest daughter in the Crawley family) is currently one of the most perfect relationships on TV; their subtle wit and quick banter complement each other extremely well.

One cunning way this show lures in people is through seemingly giving into what the viewers want (like finally getting Matthew and Mary together after three seasons, as well as making the impossible possible with the marriage of Lady Sibyl Crawley and the chauffeur Branson), and then doing exactly the opposite of what viewers

expect, like (spoiler alert) when Sibyl died in childbirth. In essence, the writers are taking the viewers on an unpredictable journey, and this keeps viewers

plays the Dowager Countess Violet Crawley, is just pure magic in her role; her sharp wit disguised under the perfect manner of decorum is one of the highlights of the show.

*Downton Abbey* has shown a lot of promise over the past three seasons, fully deserving the 16 Primetime Emmy Awards nominations it has received, which happens to be the most of any non-US TV show to date.

Although season three has finished its run in the UK and is currently airing in the US, there is already a lot of buzz about the fourth season. Rumors that actor Dan Stevens will not return is putting a lot of hardcore fans on the edge, and the audience cannot wait to see what the upcoming episodes have in store.

Perhaps the current *Downton* craze is a sign that teenagers are ready to look to our English neighbors for tips on how to live life with a different perspective. Everyone could use a little class in their TV show selections, and what better way to get that than from good old *Downton Abbey*?

*Downton Abbey* plays on PBS every Sunday night at 9 p.m. ET/CT.



COURTESY OF FANPOP.COM

*Downton Abbey* is full of drama that keeps viewers interested.

From a secretly gay footman to one-sided romantic relationships, the servants have their own share of problems and secrets.

One of the most painful relationships to watch on the show is between ladies-maid Anna (Joanne Froggatt) and former valet Bates (Brendan Coyle). They encounter one obstacle after another, including Bates being thrown into jail when he was wrongly accused of murdering his ex-wife. His prison cellmate then framed him for possession of drugs, so Bates will probably not be coming out of prison and reuniting with Anna anytime soon, no matter how badly the viewers want it.

One cunning way this show lures in people is through seemingly giving into what the viewers want (like finally getting Matthew and Mary together after three seasons, as well as making the impossible possible with the marriage of Lady Sibyl Crawley and the chauffeur Branson), and then doing exactly the opposite of what viewers

hooked onto the show.

The show's amazing cast is a major part of its unconventional success with today's youths.

Every single actor contributes something unique to the show, and it is difficult to avoid getting emotionally invested in the characters when they are portrayed with such depth and sincerity. For example, Maggie Smith, who

plays the Dowager Countess Violet Crawley, is just pure magic in her role; her sharp wit disguised under the perfect manner of decorum is one of the highlights of the show.

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Although season three has finished its run in the UK and is currently airing in the US, there is already a lot of buzz about the fourth season. Rumors that actor Dan Stevens will not return is putting a lot of hardcore fans on the edge, and the audience cannot wait to see what the upcoming episodes have in store.

Perhaps the current *Downton* craze is a sign that teenagers are ready to look to our English neighbors for tips on how to live life with a different perspective. Everyone could use a little class in their TV show selections, and what better way to get that than from good old *Downton Abbey*?

*Downton Abbey* plays on PBS every Sunday night at 9 p.m. ET/CT.

## Sixteen Hopkins students showcase their humor

STAND UP, FROM B3  
letters. The audience was almost crying from the hilarity of his act.

Marc Reisner jumped onstage next, debating the merits of a 24-hour Apple store. He posed a comical scenario that compared Siri to a one-night stand, and later delved into the future philosophical dilemma of inside-out pants.

Ben Cohen brought the airport security matter back, fully enumerating the nakedness that scanner employees witness. He continued with imaginative NRA slogans and some sketchy searches on Wikipedia.

Then there was TJ Reeves who enlightened the female half of the audience with his casual analogy between urinals and carnival games. As a tryout for the lacrosse team, he joked about the massive influx of diversity he would bring to Homewood field during a season of Division I.

Cecilia Mancuso was the first girl to grace the stage, and she had the audience cracking up with some excellent one-liners regarding the utter lack of diversity in her hometown.

She also explained her younger self's ambition to author a sequel to the *Lord of the Rings* and her flowery bandana's potential to incite gang violence.

Joseph Gowen, who really does look exactly like the guy on *Homeland*, made jokes about an army of ginger terrorists and garnered a great deal of laughter from his retelling of a hilarious misunderstanding at a wrestling match in the Midwest.

Blake Barnett, the course's TA, closed out the night with a tale of brotherly competition and the line, "Taco Bell is never a destination. It's a last resort."

Overall, the event was fantastically hilarious. No joke fell flat, the comedians were confident, and the audience was warm and appreciative. Another round of applause for Hopkins' most hilarious!

Rob Davis, a brave

man returning to the undergraduate existence, warned the audience of life at age 30 with stories involving birth control, eye patches and his surprise at the existence of Hopkins Quidditch.

Garo Sarajian rolled out anecdotes from his personal life involving a church basketball dynasty and an amusing impression of his grandmother and her matchmaking follies.

Jen Diamond, the only other girl amongst a male-dominated class, presented herself as amiably earnest and frolicked in an ideal Italy where the only vocabulary necessary involved shellfish, homeless people and Italian inventions.

She also humorously grumbled about the lack of skills on her résumé, although she demonstrated that stand-up would be a justified addition.

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COURTESY OF SOPHIA GAUTHIER

Jennifer Diamond was one of only two girls in the comedy class.

## TedX visits Baltimore with a "Rewired" theme

By BRIDGET HARKNESS

For The News-Letter

Have you met TED?

Not Ted Mosby the Architect — no, this TED (all capital letters) is quite different from the Ted on the CBS show *How I Met Your Mother*.

Even though TED, much like Ted Mosby, is extremely entertaining, and has been providing a growing audience with insight for much of the last decade, TED (which is actually an acronym for Technology, Entertainment and Design), unlike Ted Mosby, is not a person (or an actor), but rather a growing non-profit founded in 1984. Accordingly, it might actually be much easier to meet TED than it would be to meet the star of a television show.

Originating as a 'one-time' conference meant to bring together Silicon Valley's most innovative speakers on Technology, Entertainment and Design, TED has now (with the help of technology) expanded to include a large number of venues — spanning from NPR's TED radio hour, to online TED talks, to volunteer-run and locally-organized TED conferences, called 'TED to the x' events (TEDx for short). Therefore, it has become increasingly easy for individuals to 'meet' TED.

In fact, those who happened to be in Baltimore last Friday were given a unique opportunity to become intimately acquainted with TED.

On Jan. 25, Morgan State University (a mere 10-minute drive from the Hopkins bubble) hosted Baltimore's

first TEDx event.

TEDx events are independently-organized events that allow members of a community to share their own stories. The TED organization lends its name and its specific format requirements (including length, style and general purpose of the speeches), but most of the event organization relies primarily on the work of committed volunteers.

Thus, the event is allowed some degree of flexibility and can be designed in order to best fit with the interests and needs of the local community.

The overarching theme selected for Baltimore's own TEDx conference was 'Rewire Baltimore', with an emphasis placed on community development, individual agency and hope for the future.

The conference consisted of a day-long selection of various speakers who spoke of their past experiences with the city as well as their hopes and dreams for the future.

Each speaker brought a new and unique interpretation to the theme, ranging from Lance Lucas, the founder of Digit All Systems, an organization aimed at providing jobs in technology to underprivileged students, to Ellen Durkan, a local artist who uses wires to create functional fashion art. Other talks included former Colt's player Joe Ehrmann, who spoke on the responsibility of our society to 'rewire' the thinking of what it means to be 'a man', and Dr. Edward Rodriguez, who, aided by new developments in medical technology, successfully performed the

most extensive face transplant to date on man who had been severely deformed by a ballistics injury that was received in overseas combat.

"It's the kind of event that simultaneously inspires you and makes you feel completely inadequate," said junior Vicky Plestis.

Plestis particularly spoke regarding her astonishment at the incredibly low average age of the collective speakers. Though TED talks are generally given by adults who have a long history of success in their given field, TEDxBaltimore hosted an almost unheard of amount of youth-aged participants as well.

"Before the TEDxYouth Event, we agreed that we would take one student. Today, we have ended up with 78 students," said the MC of the event, as he introduced Dan Trahey, the director of Baltimore ORCHkids, to the stage.

Trahey began by sharing a brief story about the program that he started in conjunction with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in order to involve inner city Baltimore youth in musical endeavors. The story, he felt, illustrated the importance of working with the community in order to create an impact on the community.

Aside from Trahey's student band, the conference also featured several speeches given by inspiring high school students, as well as by one student who had chosen not to go to college after earning a two-year-long fellowship to pursue her dream of diminishing world poverty.

One of the high school students, Keimmie Booth, spoke about her experiences with her high school robotics team and the great number of opportunities that she had received as a consequence of her involvement.

"I'm sharing my robotics experience with you to promote dream chasing," Booth said as she neared the end of her speech, "Whether your dream is to be a doctor, an athlete, a musician or a fashion designer, just find something you are passionate about, and find something that you can do right now ... and don't let your age or the city that you are from stop you."

"We now hold our concerts on street corners," he explained, "We play Beyoncé as well as Beethoven."

Another community-driven addition to the program that Trahey noted was the program's creation of a 'bucket band', which gave the children the opportunity to learn basic

drum rhythms by playing on large home-depot paint buckets.

Following his speech, Trahey then invited the entirety of his youth 'orchestra' on stage. The amazing energy of the children as they played seeped into the audience, as many members began to dance in their auditorium seats.

Appropriately, it seems that Trahey's speech pinpointed the exact sentiment that makes TEDx so incredibly effective — each community has unique and individual needs, and it is imperative that these needs be distinguished in order to create an impact on the community.

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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

**Baltimore museums do the city proud**

**M**useums are kind of like Disney's Epcot: They make it possible to travel around the world in 80 minutes. In a great museum, as in Epcot, trips to Norway and Morocco fit into one afternoon.

For me, going to a museum is also like shopping.

It's not so different from browsing Nordstrom, or even a really big Anthropologie.

Beautiful things are on display, and I get

to spend hours admiring them. In a museum, however, they won't let me take anything home.

Over winter break, I explored quite a few art museums. The best of these were in Vienna, but I also returned to some enjoyable ones right here in Baltimore.

In Vienna, they take art very seriously, so museums are naturally a big deal. Not only does the city have a whole section dedicated to museums — appropriately titled the MuseumsQuartier — but in 1897, a group of artists started a kind of revolution because they took umbrage with contemporary aesthetics and art-displaying practices.

And so the Secession building was born. It is a beautiful white structure adorned with a glimmering dome of gold and iron laurels. The radiant new museum was dedicated to a more democratic and progressive kind of art.

This story exemplifies what I love about Vienna: culture really matters in this city. It's hard to imagine most Americans getting this worked up over an art exhibition.

The Viennese are also experts at integrating pal-

aces and museums. My favorite site in the city is the Belvedere, which doubles as both an impressive imperial estate and a museum.

Here, you'll find some of Austrian artist Gustav Klimt's most famous paintings, including "The Kiss."

When I entered Vienna, I'd barely heard of Klimt,

but after spending a few days there, I declared him to be my new favorite artist. This may be because

the Viennese do an excellent job of promoting him:

Klimt is in every gift shop and on the tip of every tour guide's tongue. However, it's not hard to see why: Klimt's world is a gilded paradise.

Another great Klimt exhibition can be found at the Kunsthistorisches (Art History) Museum, where the walls of the magnificent foyer are adorned with his mythical paintings. This museum is also an impressive architectural feat, brimming with marble and gold-leaf.

Of course it's difficult

to top Vienna, but Baltimore doesn't compare too poorly. Museums here are certainly a lot cheaper. You can get into our neighbor, the Baltimore Museum of Art, for free. The Walters in nearby Mt. Vernon is also accessible for a surprising sum of zero dollars.

My favorite spots in the Walters are the Collector's Study and the Chamber of Wonders, where the curators have synthesized how a wealthy European would have displayed "exotic" art in his own home. The Asian art collection in the Hackerman house is also quite interesting. It has an impressive display of Japanese arms and armor, including samurai artifacts.

I love the Walters, but if I have a few hours free, it's fun and easy to spend them at the conveniently-located BMA. It's a nice place to wander around aimlessly. I like their collection of modern art, especially the Andy Warhol room. There, you can see an example of his oxidation series, which Warhol created by having some of his friends urinate on canvases primed with metallic paint.

As Warhol himself said,

"Art is what you can get away with."

Another good museum in Baltimore is the Evergreen, located near Loyola. Last year, I attended an interesting exhibition there on the tragic life of Zelda Fitzgerald.

In short, I love museums. They're an alluring blend of fantasy and history. You can get lost in cavernous rooms and pretend you're in another century. When the bleeding crucifixes from Medieval Europe start to bring you down, head over to admire the dreamy Impressionist landscapes.

A museum is also a great place to people-watch. You'll find the serious intellectuals examining one painting for twenty minutes, and right behind them, some bored teenagers on a field trip staring blankly at their iPhones.

In fact, I think some of the most fascinating people in the world can be found at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

A friend and I went to MOMA over the summer and discovered some of our fellow patrons intently studying a glass case that displayed a dirty napkin from the 70s. This work of art depicted various types of blotches, and included supportive descriptors such as "blood" or "oil" to help the viewer understand the nature of the various stains. Despite the inherent absurdity, everyone around the exhibit was so very serious about the whole thing.

If confused, refer to the above Warhol quotation.

Of course, MOMA is also wonderful because of Van Gogh's "Starry Night," Dali's "The Persistence of Memory," and a score of other breath-taking pieces. But I'm never going to forget that 40-year-old napkin.

Aren't museums great?



COURTESY OF EASYVOYAGE.COM/UK  
Vienna's Museums Quartier is a must-see for people that love art.

**Mean Girls heads from beloved movie to musical**

Tina Fey's possible Mean Girls Musical has sparked public interest

**W**hen I first heard rumors of *Mean Girls* making its Broadway debut, my reaction was hor-

ror. Why tamper with a clas-

*Mean Girls* has probably become the most quoted movie of our generation. Girls (and even some boys) have memorized the script word for word, and a remake could only lead to disappointment and despair.

My worries were quickly set to rest when I found out that Tina Fey was the one toying with the idea of a musical. Nothing can go wrong when Tina Fey takes the lead and we will have to learn to put our trust in the woman who first gave us the genius of *Mean Girls*.

I do have a few pieces of advice that I hope she will take into consideration when putting together what should be one of the most talked about musicals ever (although, honestly, I trust Tina Fey's judgment much more than my own).

DO keep the classic one-liners we've all come to know and love.

When one thinks *Mean Girls*, one can't help but think of those great lines that practically every person on the planet can recognize, if not recite. "I'm a mouse, duh," "On Wednesdays we wear pink," "It's like I have ESPN or something," "The limit does not exist," "That is so fetch,"

and of course, "I wish I could bake a cake filled with rainbows and smiles and everyone would eat and be happy."

I could list these one-liners all day and likely fill a full page, and quite honestly, I've probably overdone it as is, but what can

I say, the entire movie is so damn quoteable!

DON'T recast Lind-

crazed teenage girls of the world to risk the casting of the main character.

It's time for someone else to have the chance to prove herself worthy of Tina Fey's script.

DO have Regina George's mother dance along to the Christmas routine in the actual audience.

Who doesn't love a bit of interactive Broadway? Especially if it's Mrs. George acting completely ridiculous (and hilarious).

DO lengthen Kevin G's rap.

to changes that will come with the change of medium.

Rather than looking at it as changes to their favorite movie, people need to look at it as an opportunity to witness more of Tina Fey's hilarity.

Think of it as a *Mean Girls* 2.0 (and no, I don't mean *Mean Girls* 2, the atrocious movie that should never have shared a namesake with our beloved *Mean Girls*).

DO lengthen Kevin G's rap.

I personally refer to the rap scene as my favorite part of the movie.

Kevin G is one of the best characters and the rap is everything he represents. Every time it is cut short in the film, I find myself wishing it was much longer.

Please, please Tina Fey, write him a longer rap in the musical. The audience will thank you greatly for it!

DON'T forget to write our favorite dim-witted character, Karen Smith, a hilariously-stupid song.

The genius of Karen's character can easily be overlooked and an entire musical number to showcase her would be an amazing addition. A musical presents a great opportunity to provide audiences with even more Karen, so why not take advantage?

Now all that's left to do is wait for *Mean Girls the Musical* with bated breath.

As rumors fly about the casting and timing of this much-anticipated event, I will keep my faith in the ever-hilarious Tina Fey.

She hasn't led us astray yet.



COURTESY OF FANPOP.COM  
Mean Girls may possibly get a Broadway treatment in the near future.

say Lohan as Cady Heron.

She had her moment in the sun, and she did a great job.

There's no denying that Lindsay Lohan was a great actress, especially in *Mean Girls*. But she's had a rough patch lately, and this musical is too important to the

ous, as per usual) with her camera in hand, right near your seat?

DON'T keep the script word for word.

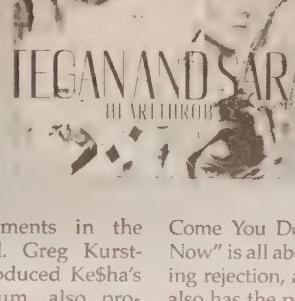
As great as *Mean Girls* is, the movie won't translate to a musical perfectly. Because of this, people need to keep an open mind

**NEW VIBRATIONS**

ARTIST  
**Tegan and Sara**  
ALBUM  
**Heartthrob**  
LABEL  
Warner Music  
RELEASED  
January 29, 2013

Tegan and Sara are known for their sassy lyrics, but their newest album, *Heartthrob*, which was released on Tuesday, takes the band a step further, adding an energetic beat and new, shiny instruments to their insightful lyrics. This album marks the band's crucial transition from indie rock music towards more of a mainstream sound.

It is a far more cohesive album than any of the duo's past albums. The songs all either have to do with being in love, being heartbroken or somewhere in between, and they all have a consistent, energetic sound.



"I'm Not Your Hero" and "How Come You Don't Want Me Now" are a more improved version of their old albums, with the catchy lyrics reminiscent of older albums, but with a stronger sound.

"I'm Not Your Hero" has a chorus that's very easy to sing along to and will stay stuck in your head for hours.

"How Come You Don't Want Me Now" is all about experiencing rejection, and its chorus also has the potential to become an anthem to be sung over and over again. Everyone has wondered at some point "how come you don't want me now."

This album is so good that there really aren't any bad songs. "Love They Say" has lyrics that are a little bit too cheesy and not as upbeat as the rest of the album. It's not a song that one might want to listen to over and over again unless they are hopelessly in love ("the first time you kissed my lips, I knew I was meant for you"). However, this provides a balance against some of the more depressing songs in the album.

The album ends with the song "Shock to the System," which is very appropriately named, as the album itself is a shock to the system. Tegan and Sara were pretty good before, but *Heartthrob* gave them a revamped sound that should leave listeners with no doubt that Tegan and Sara are just going to keep getting better.

- Rachel Witkin

**Hansel and Gretel is flashy without substance**

**HANSEL, FROM B3**  
has abducted for her ritual.

Three-fourths of this movie was composed of fight scenes flashing by so fast that if this movie had been in 3D, it would surely have disoriented viewers. There seems to be fight after fight with not much content in between.

Renner and Arterton did what they could with the material they were given, but since the characterizations weren't very strong to begin with on paper, there wasn't much they could do to improve the movie.

Admittedly, there were some amusing moments, like Hansel having developed diabetes from eating so many sweets as a child as well as Ben's interac-

tions with the two siblings.

The twist that Hansel and Gretel's parents were trying to save them by leaving them in the woods also came as a surprise and was welcomed, especially since viewers were beginning to wonder how much longer this movie would run.

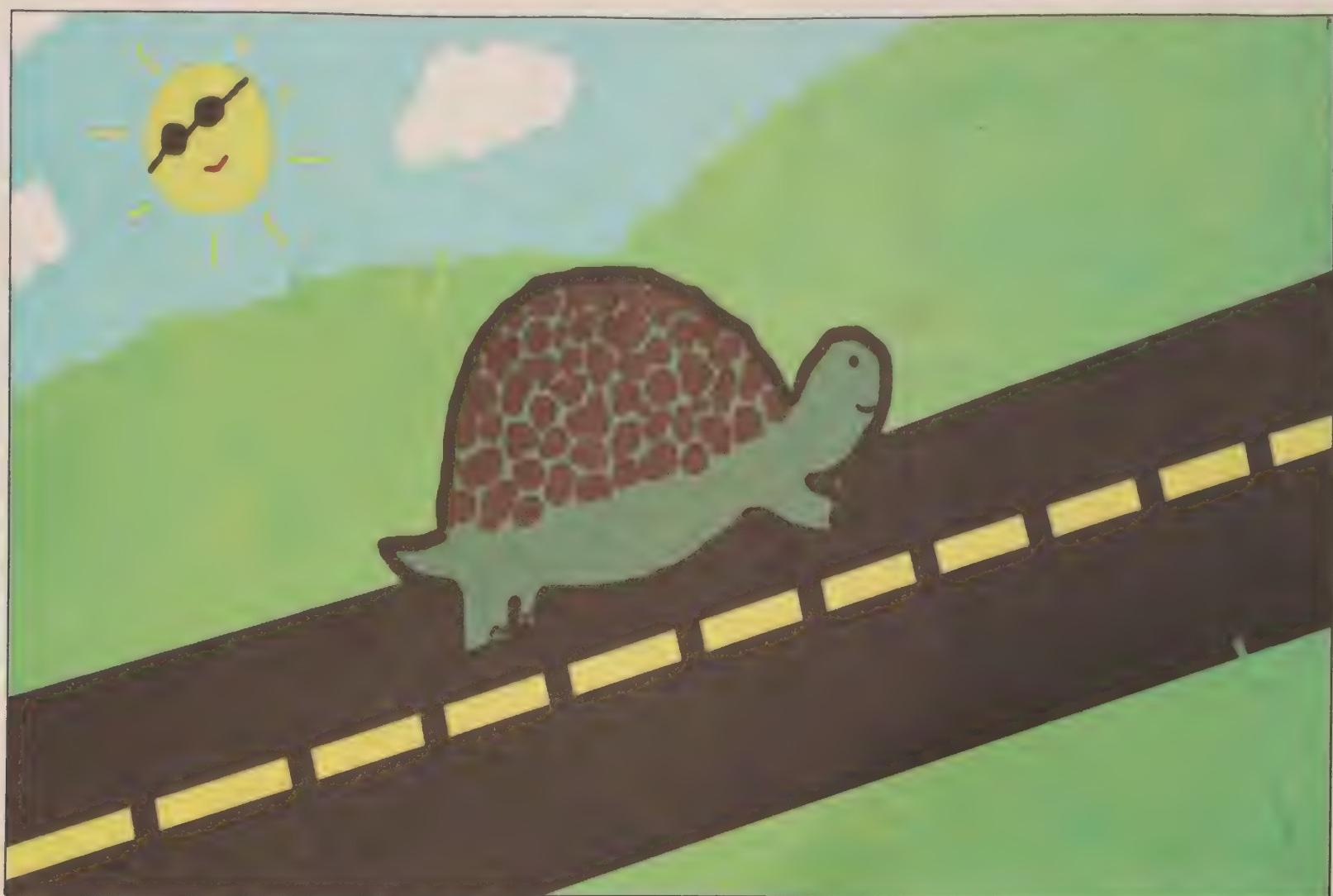
Overall, though, this movie delivered cheap thrills without much substantial development.

Those who are interested in pretty people (of which there are quite a few) and fight scenes might enjoy this hour and a half long movie. However, anyone else who wants more than thrills and scares would be better off spending their time pursuing other entertainment.

# CARTOONS, ETC.

Happy Turtle

By Takoyaki



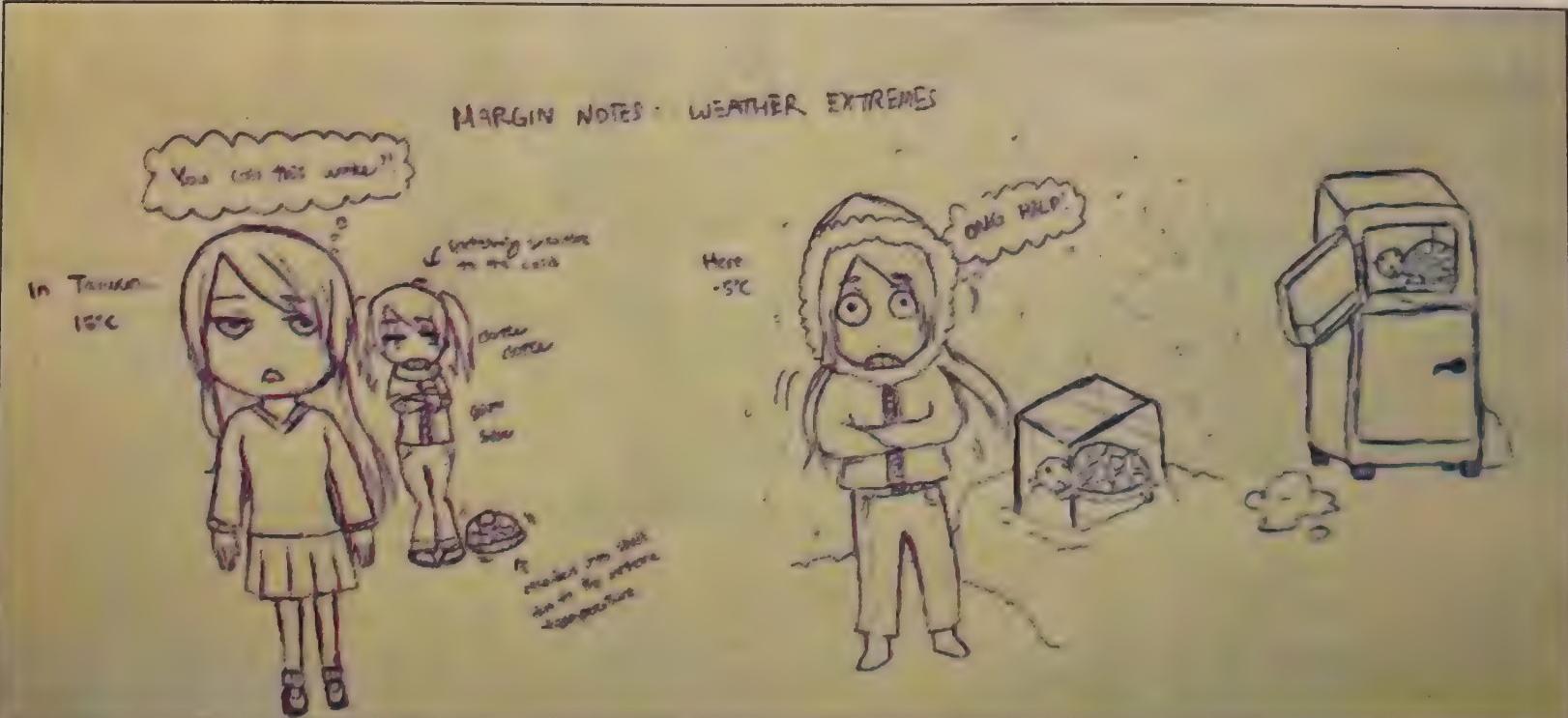
Sea of Paper

By Takoyaki



Weather Extremes

By Takoyaki



# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



COURTESY OF WWW.MEDIA.MERCHANTCIRCLE.COM

These deceptively adorable cats are in fact responsible for the deaths of many wildlife birds and mammals.

## Cats may be deadlier than you think

By RIAN DAWSON  
Editor-in-Chief

Vicious killer isn't necessarily the first thing to come to mind when you think of a cat. However, according to a new study, the cuddly creatures are responsible for a significantly higher body count than scientists had originally anticipated.

Surprisingly, their mammalian prey isn't the stereotypical mouse. Instead, according to the study published in *Nature*, of its estimated median of 12.3 billion mammals killed yearly, creatures like shrews, chipmunks and voles—a rounder, chubbier version of a field mouse—take the top spots. It's also estimated that cats kill a median of 2.4 billion birds yearly.

The report, led by scientists from the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and the Fish and Wildlife Service, included both domestic and feral cats. In producing the numbers, the scientists conducted a meta-analysis of 21 previously done studies. They

extracted numbers from these studies, which were deemed to have a large enough sample size and consistent enough results to be meaningful, and standardized the findings to obtain the published figures.

Professor Greg Ball who studies birds and their photo-behavior, explained the impact of the report's findings.

The reality is that they [birds on the continent] haven't evolved to have a lot of small feline predators attacking them and this is especially on younger birds," Ball said. "We've known for many years that bird populations are very seriously negatively impacted by domestic cats being abandoned and becoming totally feral or just being allowed out. In some ways house cats being let out is among the worst situation because they're given support."

"When you have a house cat, you have someone taking care of it, feeding it, and at the same time subsidizing it to work in a habitat where it doesn't belong," he said. "And there's very little awareness of this. Or it's often ignored as not being significant. But it really is. We're very

long. This new study tried to systematically document what the impact is on wild animal populations. And as thought, it's bad."

The study highlights the problem that scientists have known about. What is surprising about this problem is just how high the numbers are. It additionally gestures at the ongoing debate surrounding cats and their impact on wildlife. On one side of the coin are environmentalists who see cats as dangerous predators, and on the other are animal rights activists lambasting the number of cats euthanized every year. Both sides, however, recognize that there is a problem.

Ball noted that cats, as pets, come with a certain level of responsibility.

"One of the responsibilities of owning a small tiger, which is what a cat is, is that it should not be exposed where it doesn't belong," he said. "And there's very little awareness of this. Or it's often ignored as not being significant. But it really is. We're very

SEE CATS, PAGE B8

**SEE CATS, PAGE B8**



COURTESY OF WWW.CHEMO.NET

Women have two copies of BRCA1, which may mutate to cause cancer.

## Some cancers find trick to defy genetic instability

By IAN YU  
Managing Editor

Women who carry a mutated copy of the BRCA1 gene have an elevated risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer. However, when a cell does not have fully functional BRCA1 along the way to becoming cancerous, it runs the risk of acquiring so many subsequent genetic mutations that it might kill itself before it can evolve into a tumor.

That challenge was the focus of a group of researchers between St. Louis and Spain who examined lab-generated cells with various knockouts as well as cells extracted from the tumors of cancer patients. Publishing their

results in *The Journal of Cell Biology*, the researchers found that these cancer cells could overcome an imbalance in the DNA repair mechanism, caused by BRCA1's absence, by eliminating BRCA1's competitor protein, 53BP1.

In a non-cancerous cell, BRCA1 and 53BP1 usually compete with one another to bind to breaks in the double-stranded DNA, which can arise from outside sources like UV ray exposure. When BRCA1 binds to the break, it recruits a whole set of proteins involved in one repair mechanism called homologous recombination. This allows the break to be repaired by correctly adjoining the ends within

SEE BRCA1, PAGE B8

## Water may have existed in deep Martian basin

By CATIE PAUL  
Staff Writer

Scientists have been collecting evidence to prove the previous existence of water on Mars. There are plenty of sites that may once have been oceans, lakes and rivers. With the help of equipment designed by the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), researchers think they have discovered a crater that may once have been a standing lake fed by groundwater.

This information couldn't have been discovered without the aid of the Compact Reconnaissance Imaging Spectrometer for Mars (CRISM), which was built and is operated by APL. CRISM processes collected data while onboard NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO).

CRISM operates by breaking up light into hundreds of individual colors, which can reveal the composition of the object being studied. The data from CRISM was analyzed and published in the online edition of *Nature Geoscience*. Joseph Michalski, who is affiliated with the Planetary Science Institute in Tucson, Arizona and London's Natural History Museum, was the lead author of the paper.

What Michalski and his colleagues found was evidence that McLaughlin Crater, which is 57 miles in diameter and 1.4 miles deep, was once deep

## Stress induces genetic illnesses

Epigenetic effects of stress hormones during adolescence

By EVA PEKLE  
For The News-Letter

Recent studies show that stress during adolescence can increase the risks of psychological disorders in adults.

It has been observed that mice that were exposed to higher stress levels during adolescence, and thus that have more stress hormones—like cortisol—circulating in their blood, were more prone to developing mental illnesses derived from genetic factors.

The results of this study pave way for new opportunities in prevention and treatment of some severe neuropsychological disorders such as depression or schizophrenia.

Akira Sawa, a professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Hopkins Medicine headed the study recently published in *Science*. Sawa and his team investigated the effect of external stressors on adults that are already at risk.

Sawa prepared a group of genetically modified rats that were predisposed to certain mental illnesses and a group of healthy rats as a control. Interestingly, the genetically modified rats showed no deviation in behavior, thus living without any sign of mental illness. However, when they applied certain external pressures to stress them out, the modified rats experienced lasting abnormal behaviors.

The experiment was designed to recreate social isolation, which can be a hard part during teenage years. Sawa isolated mice, both modified and healthy, from its group for three weeks. After three weeks, they were examined for certain abnormalities in behavior and physical per-

formances like swimming.

While healthy rats acted as nothing had changed and swam capably, the modified rats expressed hyperactivity and were also not able to swim. Furthermore, when each of the mice rejoined their group, the modified mice continued to act abnormally, suggesting a long lasting effect of stress during adolescence.

Sawa explains that genetic risk factors are important but not sufficient for the development of mental illness; it is important that an environmental stressor must also be present to trigger the unusual behavior.

The onset of mental illness in these experiments was caused by an excess of circulating cortisol. This stress hormone is secreted by the adrenal gland dur-

ing the body's flight-or-fight response, a role that our sympathetic nervous system is responsible for. Additionally, mice also displayed a decrease in dopamine levels in the frontal cortex. Dopamine is responsible for higher brain functions such as cognition, motivation and reward behavior.

In order to determine whether or not the decrease in dopamine levels was associated with the unusual cortisol levels, the researchers administered RU486.

This compound, also known as the abortion pill, is a cortisol antagonist: it prevents cortisol from being active in the cells by blocking the receptors. The symptoms faded away and the dopamine levels were restored.

SEE STRESS, PAGE B8



COURTESY OF WWW.UMT.EDU

Mice that were stressed by isolation were not able to swim properly.

erals such as carbonates in the rocks in the crater. The team that controls the MRO works closely with scientists around the world to procure the data samples they need to make new discoveries about water on Mars. The MRO was launched in 2005, and since then it has gathered more data about Mars than all the other Mars orbiters combined.

McLaughlin Crater has become a large interest for scientists and has been suggested as a future landing site for Mars missions. Although the presence of long-dead living organisms will be difficult to detect, if it's true that there was standing water on the surface in places like McLaughlin Crater, it seems more and more likely that there may have been life on Mars.

McLaughlin Crater was once a wet environment and a possible habitat for ancient life.

This evidence consists of the presence of carbonates and clay minerals, the type of minerals that only form in the presence of water, encased in rocks at the bottom of the crater.

The scientists believe that the carbonates formed in the presence of underground water.

McLaughlin Crater doesn't contain any large inflowing channels, which led researchers to claim

that it couldn't have gotten water from outside.

Furthermore, its smaller inflowing channels originate at a level in the crater wall where the surface of a lake could have been, suggesting that some water may have poured in from the crater wall and run into an already-existing lake. This indicates that

Other studies done using CRISM data have found that rocks beneath the surface of Mars contain signs of hydrothermal fluids, further evidence that there was water underground.

The groundwater then may have arrived at the surface of Mars in very deep basins such as McLaughlin Crater.

The scientists used CRISM to check for min-



COURTESY OF WWW.MARS.JPL.NASA.GOV

The Hopkins APL uses CRISM, an equipment that facilitates the analysis of land compositions on Mars.

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

# Balanced protein activity needed for gene repair

**BRCA1, FROM B7**

the proper chromosome. In contrast, 53BP1 leads to the use of nonhomologous end joining, a process that will repair a break by sticking together two ends of DNA that may not result in the correct sequence.

According to Susana Gonzalo, an assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the St. Louis University School of Medicine both processes are essential and have to be in check.

"To have only nonhomologous end joining or homologous recombination is bad. You need to

have a balance," Gonzalo said. "That balance is established by these two proteins."

Gonzalo explained that mice generated with a full knockout of BRCA1—where both copies of the gene are not functional—should not survive past their embryonic stage. However, previous researchers have shown that mice with a knockout of both BRCA1 and 53BP1 can not only develop beyond the embryonic stage and into full adult mice, they also have lower rates of tumor development. Although the lack of BRCA1 and 53BP1 means that the

repair mechanisms have a little more difficulty in finding a double strand break, the key is that neither one is dominating.

"When you lose both of them there is still a balance. That balance is still there because that break is open for the machinery," Gonzalo said.

In the lab, Gonzalo's group worked with a BRCA1-deficient cell culture that did not proliferate normally. After two weeks, some cells were able to start growing again, finding a way to beat down their levels of 53BP1. They also observed a similar reduction in 53BP1 in samples from

cancer patients.

"This strategy of getting rid of both proteins is what tumor cells use to survive. A cell that does not have BRCA1 will be very, very sick," Gonzalo said. "How would you explain how a tumor grows in a BRCA1 deficient patient? What we are saying is that the tumors are finding a way to get rid of 53BP1 and that is the degradation of the protein."

The degradation is the handiwork of cathepsin L, an enzyme that specializes in finding 53BP1 and breaking it down to amino acid. The cells that were able to grow again in Gonzalo's lab managed to bring cathepsin L into the nucleus of cell and bring balance to the repair mechanisms.

"The cells are very clever and they get rid of the problem, in this case 53BP1," Gonzalo said.

So where does this lead oncologists? Gonzalo and her team were also able to target these cells specifically by focusing on cathepsin L, dosing the cells with either cathepsin inhibitors or vitamin D. The end result was disruption of the repair mechanism balance, a stop to proliferation and increase in genetic instability among the BRCA1 deficient cells.

"Ideally, we could increase levels of 53BP1 and the cells will die. That's what we tried to do," Gonzalo said.



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Researchers found that a knockout of both the BRCA1 and 53BP1 can prevent the development of tumors.

## Felines responsible for some wildlife damage

**CATS, FROM B7**

worried about our migratory bird populations because of destruction in the tropics. It's irresponsible of us to not work with our cat owners on how to manage their cats."

Though domestic cat being allowed outdoors is unlikely to change vastly in the near future, Ball offered advice to ameliorate the relationship between cats and wildlife. "It's dangerous for your cat," Ball said. "The Kitty Cam (a University of Georgia project) has shown that cats are encountering all sorts of things that are harassing. There were some pretty scary stories in there (in the article)."

he said. "I think the best thing is to keep your cat at home. Or, if it does go outside, keep it in a very well defined space so you can watch it."

Ball also pointed out that allowing domestic pets outside poses dangers for itself as well as wildlife. "It's dangerous for your cat," Ball said. "The Kitty Cam (a University of Georgia project) has shown that cats are encountering all sorts of things that are harassing. There were some pretty scary stories in there (in the article)."

The other side of the debate also acknowledges the dangers of allowing cats outdoors, however animal welfare activists point to feral cats as a larger contributor to the issue than their domestic counterparts. The study itself has shown that outdoor pets are responsible for only 29 percent of birds killed and —even less—only 11 percent of mammals killed.

In response to the problem of feral cats, across the nation various animal welfare organizations have ad-

opted Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs. Locally, the Maryland Feline Society runs a TNR program. As their website explains, the mission is to trap the feral felines, provide them with vaccines and ear-tag them for identification, before returning them to their "colony" where a caretaker provides them with food. The logic behind the program is that neutered colonies will not reproduce and thus the population of feral animals will decrease and thus decreasing their threat to wildlife.

## Drinking affects cognitive functions in adolescents

**By ALICE HUNG***For The News-Letter*

Along with the start of classes, as the new semester begins, is the onset of weekend partying and late-night drinking. Especially with recruitment week lurking in the corner, the presence of alcohol is to be expected.

Recent studies show that not only can excessive alcohol cause permanent brain damage in adolescents, but it is also much harder for addicts to quit than previously expected.

It is widely known amongst college students like us that alcohol affects the brain in a negative way. We have been told not to drink in excessive amounts at

**Research shows**

**early alcohol use-**

**and misuse- is**

**correlated with**

**permanent cogni-**

**tive impairments**

25 years of age. As a result, any damage induced during development may result in long-lasting consequences. Depending on when one starts drinking, the affected areas may vary.

The onset of drinking has become increasingly early over the years. Moreover, binge drinking, when one consumes large quantities of alcohol over a short period of time, is also becoming increasingly common, with the highest rates between ages 21 and 24. Research shows early alcohol use—and misuse—is correlated with

permanent cognitive im pairments.

Specifically, heavy alcohol misuse in adolescents is correlated with deficits in visual-spatial processes, executive functions, language skills, attention, problem solving abilities, and memory. These higher order functions are controlled by the cerebral cortex and hippocampus—the last structures of the brain to fully mature.

Chronic alcohol misuse in young adults correlates with altered blood flow in these brain regions, leading to neural atrophies and subsequent permanent damage. In essence, alco-

hol is causing shrinkage of the brain and neurological reorganization. Research also shows that this can lead to personality changes and emotional deregulation.

Herman and colleagues recommended early treatment that focuses on improving existing cognitive deficits. Another option for more severe alcohol abusers includes inpatient treatment clinics. However, a recent study by Nathan J. Marchant and researchers of the National Institute on Drug Abuse suggests that these clinics may not be effective in preventing relapse.

In response to negative

consequences such as job loss, car accidents and relationship damage due to drinking problems, many alcohol-users are motivated to stop drinking. Although addiction research with animals has touched upon this question, it has been difficult to mirror the conditions affecting people.

To bet-

ter reflect the drinking problem that many face, Marchant and colleagues used a relapse model for which rats were treated for their addiction in an environment different from where they originally became addicted. This method mimics people's efforts to quit alcohol in treatment clinics.

Results showed that despite the suppression of alcohol-intake in the new environment, rats relapsed to their previous self-administered drinking behaviors when reintroduced to the original environment. This suggests that the positive effects of inpatient treat-

ment may be temporary and ineffective when people return to their day-to-day lives.

Future studies are needed to better understand the neurological damage caused by adolescent alcohol misuse, and to discover better ways to ameliorate existing damage and treat addiction. Nonetheless, from existing studies, it is evident that drinking behaviors in young adults cause lasting damage to the brain.

Therefore, before taking a swing from the bottle next week at the parties, remember that you may still need those neurons for upcoming exams!



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## Stress may influence development of illness

**STRESS, FROM B7**

Why did the mice get better? To answer this question, Sawa and his team looked at the tyrosine hydroxylase (Th) gene. High levels of cortisol had an epigenetic effect on the gene that decreased its activity. This concomitantly led to a decrease in production of an enzyme that regulates dopamine levels.

Epigenetic modifications, unlike mutations that change the sequence of DNA, do not alter the DNA language, but instead add chemical compounds on the sequence. In this case, a methyl group was added to the gene, which prevented it from being fully active, resulting in low dopamine levels. Blocking the cortisol receptors allowed the gene to return to its normal state.

"We are going to look at other genes, not only Th, but also other genes that could cause a decrease in dopamine. We are trying to find other genes that are epigenetically affected," Sawa said. He also explains that there is a need to develop drugs that are also cortisol antagonist that do not have all the side effects that RU486 has."

## What You Missed Over Winter Break

**Data storage in DNA:** We all know DNA holds all the information we need to divide cells and create the organs and tissues that make us human beings. But have you ever thought whether DNA can hold other types of information? A study published in *Nature* demonstrated that DNA can potentially be used as a tool to store information in the future. As the cost of storage is increasing while our budget doesn't, DNA may become a useful and cost-effective method to store your homework and word documents!

**Friendly spiders:** A strange phenomenon was observed by arachnologists, who study spiders for a living. They found two closely related species of spiders forming a distinct "spider society," in which parent spiders tend to the infant spiders of other spiders. They conducted an experiment where they introduced an "intruding" spider to a clan of others, only to be surprised by a high success of the intruder becoming a friend that was welcomed.

**Is a kilogram really a kilogram?** It may surprise some of you that unlike certain units like the ampere, second, kelvin and mole, a kilogram is actually based off the weight of a lump of metal sitting in a laboratory in Paris. In fact, the absolute mass of the lump is known as "The Kilogram." However, some scientists are now arguing to change the definition of a kilogram by using subatomic particles as references, with the help of the Planck's constant. If this sweeping change occurs, the lump of metal that has served as a universal reference for all mass measurements made in the world will become just an old lump of metal.

- Michael Yamakawa

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

# Cholera vaccine campaign funded

By SAMHITA ILANGO  
For The News-Letter

The Bloomberg School of Public Health is turning heads as they embark on the cholera vaccine initiative. With the help of The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which has provided a four-year, \$5 million grant to supply the initiative, Hopkins is aiming to promote the benefits of oral vaccinations to prevent cholera all over the world.

Headquartered in Seattle, Wa., the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation seeks to help people lead productive lives. According to the foundation, their goal is to improve people's health and provide chances to lift themselves out of hunger and poverty. The Foundation already has existing vaccine projects that strive to prevent cholera occurrences worldwide.

To further spread their efforts towards all corners

of the globe, the Foundation will team up with the Delivering Oral Vaccine Effectively (DOVE) program, that can provide technical assistance on how to use the oral cholera vaccine properly. The DOVE program will provide agencies and governments proper techniques for delivering the vaccine and help to evaluate current cholera vaccine practices. Additionally, the DOVE program is developing new ground techniques to monitor and direct any cholera outbreaks, concentrating in the northern region of Cameroons.

Cholera kills 100,000 to 200,000 people worldwide and infects about 2.5 million people every year. Drinking unsanitary water or eating unsanitary food is the main cause of spreading the disease. Starting in the early 1800s, cholera infected a large population in India and later in the Bay of Bengal. The dis-

ease hit an outbreak after 1817 as contaminated water was dumped into open waters. This further polluted water in many port cities and local waters. Soon enough, the infectious disease had permeated itself through Europe and Russia. Finally, in the 1830s, cholera was brought to New York City when the French traveled to the New World, causing a disastrous epidemic.

Infection with the cholera bacteria, *Vibrio cholerae*, leaves patients with watery diarrhea, abdominal pain and a myriad of dehydration-related symptoms, due to a toxin released by the bacteria. For patients, the key to survival and recovery is replacing lost fluids.

The cholera oral vaccine is over 70 percent successful in treating cholera symptoms. The vaccine costs \$1.85 per dose, however, and thus is not yet widely used in preventing the outbreaks in developing countries. In the past, cholera has only been treated through means of prevention.

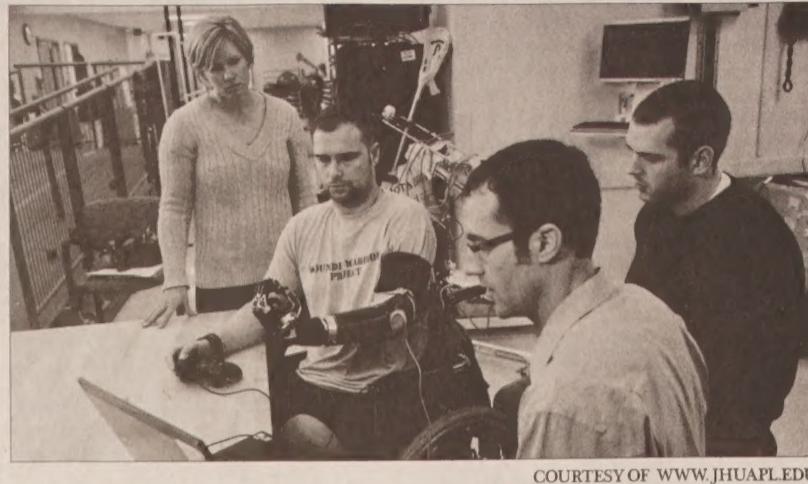
The World Health Organization (WHO) has implemented long term improvements in water supply, sanitation, food safety, and community awareness of preventative measures. However, the WHO has recently implemented oral cholera vaccines which are now available to some individuals. The WHO also stated that the evidence of the benefits of oral cholera vaccines is increasing.

The WHO is also focusing on the prospects of mass vaccination as a public health strategy to protect large populations from cholera. As the investigation continues, issues like logistics of strategy employment, cost, timing, vaccination capacity and criteria for mass vaccinations are being addressed.



COURTESY OF WWW.DOCTORSWITHOUTBORDERS.ORG

The Gates Foundation provided funds for dissemination of cholera vaccine.



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The MPL can provide quadriplegics and amputees more freedom of movement via mind controlled machinery.

## Robotic arm reaches toward success

By MATT PARMAN  
For The News-Letter

A recent segment on *60 Minutes* detailed the successes of the Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory's Revolutionizing Prosthetics team in mind-controlled prosthetics, also called Modular Prosthetic Limbs (MPL). Geoff Ling, DARPA program manager for the Revolutionizing Prosthetics program, answered some questions about the team's work for *The News-Letter*.

*The News-Letter* (N-L): How long might it take to expand this research and then make an actual FDA-approved product from it that could be produced on a larger scale?

Geoff Ling (GL): The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab (APL) is one of two prime performers on DARPA's Revolutionizing Prosthetics program; the other is DEKA Research and Development Corp. Both performers have developed prototype modular prosthetic arm systems, including sockets, which offer increased range of motion, dexterity, and control options to users.

From the beginning of the program, one of DARPA's goals has been regula-

tory approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the devices and control schemes created. In seeking regulatory approval, a device and its control scheme must be tested and approved together after demonstrating their safety and efficacy. Therefore, all clinical and take-home studies require the paired use of the arm and control scheme that will ultimately be considered for commercial transition.

At the start of the program, DARPA made team assignments to use invasive or non-invasive controls; "invasive" means requiring surgical implantation of devices. The intent was that DEKA could quickly get to market a mechanically advanced, anthropomorphic prosthesis with non-invasive controls, and that APL could, over the longer term, unite advances in neuroscience to develop devices that enable near-natural control of advanced arm systems through brain control of the prosthesis, possibly including sensory feedback to the brain.

There are many variables regarding timing. FDA approval of a brain-control scheme for an advanced prosthetic limb depends on the outcome of trials and cannot be predicted, nor can the scale of any production. Definition of the brain-controlled system must be achieved before it can be submitted to the FDA for approval, and some of the technology, the implanted array in particular, must go through another evolution of design before it can be part of an objective system.

Please note, though, that both performers' arm systems can, in fact, be operated with the same control schemes, ranging from surface electromyography (EMG) to implanted arrays in peripheral nerves or the brain. Both arms use a CANBUS communication interface to facilitate standardizing input commands.

N-L: What were the biggest challenges in developing this technology (engineering or otherwise)?

GL: The entire Revolutionizing Prosthetics effort to date has required significant advances in engineering, but two major advances remain to be tackled before neural control of a prosthetic limb is viable over the long term. First, it will be necessary to improve device reliabil-

ity, especially for implantable devices such as sensors that require surgery to access. Second, users need to be able to control the arm system wirelessly. Together, these developments would minimize the need for surgery and eliminate the need for the wires that control signals to pass through the skin or skull.

N-L: Are there plans to involve more quadriplegics in this research? Do you expect the technology to work with any person?

GL: Yes, one of APL's subs, the California Institute of Technology, has begun recruiting for a quadriplegic research participant.

Yes, the technology can work with any person, but those who can will likely opt for the least invasive control technique possible. To clarify, the arm systems developed under Revolutionizing Prosthetics can be controlled with a variety of inputs, including targeted muscle reinnervation, inertial measurement units outside the user's body and surface electromyography.

In the case of partial amputees, who have nerves still intact, direct brain control of an advanced prosthesis is possible by attaching existing nerves to the device. Again, the FDA will have to approve each arm-control modality before it can be made available.

For now the testing with neural implants has involved only quadriplegics due to a personal cost-benefit analysis by the patients regarding potential quality of life improvements versus the invasive nature of the required surgery, but it is by no means limited to quadriplegics.

N-L: You've had success with haptic feedback with amputees allowing them to regain some sense of touch (or is haptic the wrong term to use in this situation?). How do you plan to adapt this success in the case of a quadriplegic so that they too could begin to feel their surroundings again?

GL: A goal of the program is to provide near-natural feedback through direct stimulation to the brain. This is in the experimental phase and announcements will be made if it is approved for human trials. To protect human patient privacy, announcements are controlled very carefully and only made with permission of the patient.



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Lemurs are affected by parasites like tapeworms.

## Lemurs endangered by aggressive parasites

**D**on't you just hate it when you hear the distinctive buzzing sound of a mosquito right as you're about to fall asleep? As annoying as your situation seems, the climate change-related challenges that many species of animals have to deal with are far, far worse.

As temperatures continue to heat up, parasites such as mosquitoes will become more aggressive in their efforts to colonize new land, becoming pests of many other species that inhabit the land. Studies such as the one published on Dengue fever last July suggest that the mosquitoes' plan of attack is not strictly restricted from higher latitudes and altitudes.

A recent study on lemurs, a group of primates endemic to Madagascar (and also featured in the eponymous, animated movie), examined the effects of rising temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns on the spread of lemur parasites.

By analyzing data on six parasite species, gathered from ongoing surveys of lemur health, as well as data about Madagascar's environment as a whole, a research team from Duke University created probability maps of lemur parasite distributions on the island.

By combining this information with climate projections for the year 2080, the team was able to make estimates of what parasite distributions might look

like in the near future. Lead author Meredith Barrett, who conducted the study during her graduate years at Duke, says that these models can potentially be used to protect both lemur survival and human health by assessing where the risk of lemur-human disease transmission may be highest.

But these poor lemurs have more than parasites to be concerned about. As of now, more than 90 percent of the lemurs' forest habitat has been devastated by logging, farming, and grazing. Lemur hunting (which is of course illegal, so don't think about putting eating bushmeat as one of your ultimate life goals) is also a rampant issue.

As hospital land becomes increasingly scarce for

these primates, it is crucial that we find a way to keep these lemurs healthy. For one, the weather is not going to be in their favor. The models predict that annual temperatures in Madagascar will rise by 1.1 to 2.6 degrees Celsius by 2080. In addition, rainfall, drought and cyclone patterns are bound to change.

In a study published in this month's issue of the journal *Biological Conservation*, Barrett and her colleagues examined the implications of these changes for lemur health by studying the cues of their parasites.

The assortment they tested was quite appetizing: a total of six species of mites, ticks, and intestinal worms that are commonly

found in lemur fur and feces.

You may have heard of some of these lovely little creatures—pinworms, whipworms, and tapeworms are known to cause diarrhea, dehydration, and weight loss in humans. Do not ever use them as a diet tool—yes, some people actually try. Others, such as mites and ticks, are capable of transmitting diseases such as plague, typhus or scabies.

When the researchers compared their present-day maps with their predicted future parasite distributions, they found that the lemur parasites could expand their already formidable territory by as much as 60 percent. For instance, whipworms, which are currently confined to the island's northern and western coasts, may make a successful migration to the southeastern coast as well.

Anne Yoder, senior author of the study and Director of the Duke Lemur Center, says that the research is especially important since the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has identified lemurs as the most endangered mammals on earth.

As the weather warms up, parasites could—yes, you guessed it right—grow

and reproduce at faster rates, or move to higher latitudes and elevations that were once inhospitable to their ranks. As the parasites conquer more and more land, their diseases will also show up in new places. If these parasites were to infect lemur populations that have never encountered them before, and thus lack any defenses against them, the consequences will be disastrous.

Of course, the changing parasite distributions could affect humans as well. As the population growth forces more and more people (and their livestock) to move into previously uninhabited areas, the chances of sharing diseases with wildlife become increasingly high.

Hopefully, the results of this research can help people to neutralize disease hotspots before the parasites make their move.



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Jan Scheuremann volunteered to have sensors implanted in her brain.

## SPORTS

# Brotherly Love: Super Bowl XLVII

For the first time in the history of the Super Bowl, two brothers will face each other as head coaches

By FRANK SCHIFF  
Sports Editor

Super Bowl XLVII guarantees to be unique. The most immortal game in American sports will feature two brothers, John and Jim Harbaugh, born 15 months apart, pitted against each other as head coaches. Let's just call it the Super Baugh.

Just imagine the odds. Two brothers growing up in the same room together, tailing their father Jack, a longtime college coach to the football field throughout childhood, sharing the same dream: to one day be a head coach themselves, just like their father, leading their team to the championship. And now, at age 49 and 50, dream has evolved to reality on the most grandiose stage.

The younger son, Jim Harbaugh, in only his second year as head coach of the San Francisco 49ers, is known for a competitive fire and ruthless zeal that can come across as borderline barbaric. In need of evidence? Look no further than the school-yard tantrum thrown during the Conference Final game in Atlanta, after Jim lost a challenge.

Conversely, John Harbaugh, in his fifth year as head coach of the Baltimore Ravens, is noted for his self-effacing personality and poise.

Yet truly, both dynamic men are more similar than different.

Each has become a marquee coach in the NFL. John has won a play-

off game in each of his first five seasons with the Ravens — a feat that is as prodigious as it is unheard of. Meanwhile, Jim rose to glory as a head coach on the college level after taking a lackluster Stanford program and swiftly morphing them into a perennial powerhouse. Last year, Jim's first as a head coach in the NFL, he took an underachieving Niners team and lead them to the NFC title game. Ultimately coming within two special teams' turnovers of a Super Bowl birth.

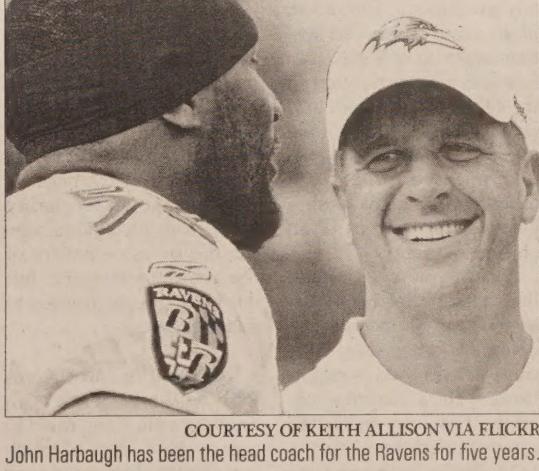
More currently, this season, both brothers made dauntless decisions that most head coaches remain too fearsome to make.

At the season's halfway mark, Jim made the highly controversial decision to bench quarterback Alex Smith — the leader of last year's NFC title appearance, who was currently in the midst of another career year — for unproven, second-year quarterback, Colin Kaepernick.

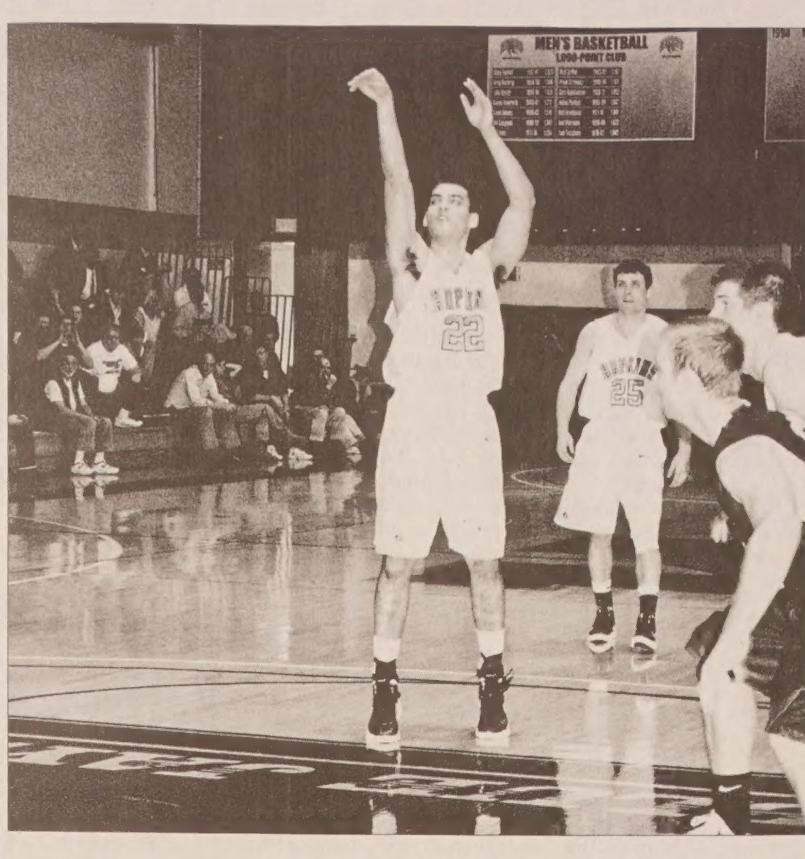
Similarly John, after a Dec. 9, 31-28 overtime loss to the Redskins, fired close friend and offensive coordinator Cam Cameron and replaced him with previous quarterback coach Jim Caldwell, who had never before called a play in the NFL.

Suffice to say, both daring moves turned out super. Come this Sunday only one Harbaugh will hoist the Lombardi Trophy.

Think you can predict which brother it will be? Well that's just a bunch of BAUGH!



COURTESY OF KEITH ALLISON VIA FLICKR  
John Harbaugh has been the head coach for the Ravens for five years.



FILE PHOTO  
After a double overtime loss on Jan. 16, Hopkins has responded with three straight CC victories.

## M. Basketball extends CC streak

By FRANK SCHIFF  
Sports Editor

The month of January has been kind to the Hopkins men's basketball program. After starting off the season 5-5, the Blue Jays have turned the corner in 2013. Not only has Hopkins gone 7-2 since the first of the month but, more importantly, the Jays have won three straight games against conference foes since their heart-wrenching double overtime loss against Franklin & Marshall on January 16.

Sophomore guard, Jimmy Hammer, pointed to the OT loss as one of the key turning points in this young season. "We realized that we could play with the top teams in the league," Hammer said. "The loss also motivated us even more to start winning some games because our goal is to make it to the conference tournament, and then hopefully the NCAA tournament."

Last Wednesday the Hopkins men's basketball team rode a 30-5 second half run to put away the host Washington College Shoremen 63-49 in Centennial Conference action. The scoring run began with the Jays trail-

ing by 12 early in the second half. The run ended twelve minutes later and put the Jays up for good.

Hopkins Junior Connor McIntyre had a career day posting his first double double, going 6 for 8 from the field and adding 13 rebounds. Senior Adam Spangler paced the Jays with 15 points while distributing five dimes of his own. Rounding out Hopkins' scorers in double figures was Hammer who added 11 points of his own while adding seven rebounds.

**The loss also  
motivated us even  
more to start  
winning some  
games.**

**—JIMMY HAMMER,  
SOPHOMORE GUARD**

well, playing great team defense, rebounding much better, and limiting our turnovers. These are all things we have been focusing on in practice and obviously, it has been working."

Three days later Hopkins would add another all important conference victory with a tight 63-59 win over host Muhlenberg on Saturday afternoon. The victory improved the Jays' record to 12-7 overall and 8-4 in the conference.

The game saw two underclassmen, Hammer and classmate George Bugarinovic, lead the way for the Jays. Hammer finished with a game-high 18 points while Bugarinovic added 12 points of his own while grabbing 12 rebounds.

"After the game Hammer added, "I think we have been playing really well as a team. We are moving the ball

well, playing great team defense, rebounding much better, and limiting our turnovers. These are all things we have been focusing on in practice and obviously, it has been working."

The Jays will seek to extend their conference win streak to four games as they take on the Gettysburg Bullets at eight p.m. this Thursday.

## Epee slashes Fencing chances

By MITCH WEAVER  
Staff Writer

On Sat., Jan. 26, the Hopkins women's fencing team participated in the Philadelphia Invitational at Temple University. The team came out with one victory and five losses.

The first opponent on the day was Sacred Heart. A strong start got the Blue Jays out ahead early, with wins in the Sabre (6-3) and the Foil (5-4). Unfortunately, the Epee was a disaster for the Jays as the team dropped an 8-1 decision to finish the match three points behind Sacred Heart, 15-12.

Next up was a formidable opponent, the ninth-ranked Temple Owls. The match was never in Hopkins favor, as the Owls swept all three weapons 8-1 (Epee), 7-2 (Foil), and 6-3 (Sabre).

However, bright spots for Hopkins included freshman Abigail Delameter and Jackie Heath who both won their bouts in the Foil. In a close match that gave the team much to be proud of, the team lost a heart wrenching decision to the North Carolina Tar Heels by a score of 15-14. The Jays were again on top in the early portion of the match, winning the Foil and the Sabre by scores of 7-2 and 5-4. The Epee was the deal-breaker once again for the Jays though, as they dropped that match 8-1.

The Jays came out on top that day against NJIT thumping them in the Sabre and the Foil by scores of 9-0 and 8-1, while the Jays once again lost the Epee by the score of 5-4. Finally, the team closed out the day against a high-powered Duke team and lost 16-11. The Blue Jays remained victorious in the Foil (5-4), but in the Sabre and the Epee they were overpowered by the scores of 5-4 and 7-2. The big contributors for the Jays Fencing team were Heath, Rachel Viqueira and Rachel Kalina. Heath and Viqueira won a combined 20 bouts in the foil on the day. In the heated match against North Carolina, Heath and Viqueira combined to win six of the team's seven Foil bouts.

Kalina had a fantastic weekend, coming up huge for the team in her Sabre bouts. After going 1-5 in Philly this weekend, the team's record now stands at 9-7.

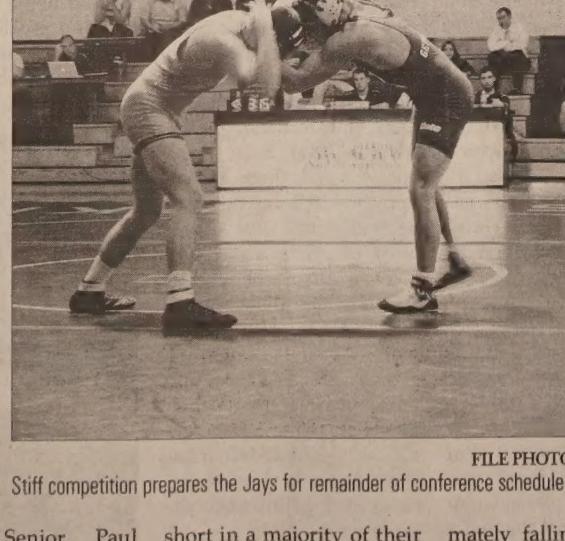
## Jays remain competitive amongst top-ranked wrestling squads

By COLIN FRIEDMAN  
Sports Editor

Leading up to this past weekend's matchup in Lexington, Va., the Blue Jays had several tough matchups to start off the New Year. Early in January, Hopkins competed in the Waynesburg Invitational. Leading the way at 125 lbs was sophomore Paul Bewak who clinched an individual title for the team. His efforts, along with seven other wrestlers who placed in the top six, earned the Blue Jays a third place finish. The team finished only behind Olivet, currently ranked seventh in the nation in Division III, and West Liberty, the 12th ranked school in Division II wrestling.

The following week brought the Blue Jays to Springfield, Illinois to take part in the 2013 NWCA/Cliff Keen National Duals. From the onset the Blue Jays understood it would be a difficult week. The tournament matched three of the top thirteen teams

in the nation against Hopkins. However, the Blue Jay squad showed they can hang with the best, holding early leads in all three matches before losing against top-ranked Wartburg, number eight Coe, and thirteenth ranked Luther. Paul Bewak, the nation's top wrestler in the 125lb weight division, was able to protect his ranking with a victory over second ranked Stiff competition prepares the Jays for remainder of conference schedule.



On Saturday the Hopkins wrestling team traveled to Washington & Lee University for the team's first conference matchups of the season. The Blue Jays faced off against New York University and Washington & Lee University, the first steps in defending the team's conference championship. Hopkins opened the day against

1-1 for conference. Apart from early season face offs against Division I Maryland and West Virginia, the match against NYU is the sixth against a nationally ranked team.

In their first match of the day the Blue Jays faced off against the NYU Violets. NYU wasted no time, winning the first six face-offs to secure a 19-0 lead. The matches were all tight, with the Violets winning five of the six matches by decision.

Four of those battles were decided by two points or less. Hopkins won three of the last four matches to account for the 22-12 final score. Paul Bewak won by forfeit, while juniors Ray Yagloski and Henry Stauber won their respective matches at 133 and 149lbs.

After the disappointing finishes, Hopkins faced off against Washington & Lee to close out the day. The Blue Jays fell in the first two matches at 157 and 165lbs, before winning the next eight bouts. A hard fought 7-5 win by Chris

short in a majority of their matches in Springfield, the stiff competition undoubtedly will provide invaluable experience for the future.

mately falling 22-12. The team recovered, dominating with a 38-6 win over the host Washington & Lee Generals. The split moved Hopkins to 3-9 overall,

tian Ostrowski at 174lbs sparked the streak for the Blue Jays. A contributing effort was supplied by sophomore Evan Johnson who completed a 77-second pin at 197lbs. Major decisions from both Joey Tilson and Henry Stauber along with forfeit wins by Bewak, Yagloski and Duncan Crystal helped secure the victory.

The Blue Jays continue their conference schedule with a matchup against Centennial Conference foe Gettysburg. The Bullets enter the meeting with a 4-14 record on the year. Last year, the Blue Jays edged out a tough 22-18 decision.

Lead by the continued dominance of standout sophomore Paul Bewak, Hopkins should continue to be competitive as they look to secure consecutive conference championships. Their tough early season schedule will surely propel them through both the highs and lows of the remaining season.

## SPORTS

FILE PHOTO  
Personal bests pace Hopkins over the weekend, providing momentum for remainder of Conference meets.

## M.Fencing drops ranked foes

By JEFF SCHILL  
Staff Writer

The Hopkins men's fencing team headed north to Philadelphia this past weekend to compete in the Philadelphia Invitational. The Blue Jays put on a solid performance securing a victory against a ranked opponent.

The Blue Jays opened the day by squaring off against North Carolina (14-13). The Jays took wins in the Foil (6-3) and Epee (5-4), while the Tar Heels took the Sabre (6-3). In the Foil, junior Evan Stafford and freshmen John Petrie and Glenn Balbus each won two bouts. Freshman Mark Zimmerman won all three of his rounds in the Epee. In the Sabre, freshman Josiah Yiu won two of his three bouts.

After taking down the Tar Heels, the Blue Jays took on Haverford. The Blue Jays continued with the momen-

tum created by the initial victory and swept Haverford in all three weapons. Sophomore Robert Goldhirsch took two wins to set up the clinching victory by Balbus in the Foil. The Jays took the Epee with a score of 6-3 and in the Sabre, Yiu took command with three wins to give the Jays a 5-4 win against the Fords.

The Blue Jays continued their strong performance against Drew (20-7) with a big win 20-7. Petrie had three wins in the Foil, setting the pace for the 6-3 win, while the Jays took the Epee, 7-2 and the Sabre 7-2.

Despite the strong start, Hopkins fell to eighth ranked University of Pennsylvania. The Quakers swept all three weapons by a 6-3 score. However, the Blue Jays would bounce back against ninth-ranked Duke.

Despite only winning

one weapon, the Blue Jays scored enough wins in the other two to take the victory against the Blue Devils. This was the first win against Duke since 2006 and first win against a ranked opponent since 2008. The performance showed how strong the Blue Jays team is this year. Not only were they able to defeat a top ten opponent, but also did so coming off of a tough loss to another ranked team.

In the final match of the invitational, the Blue Jays fell to a ranked Sacred Heart team, 15-12.

For the Blue Jays, Petrie led the way with 11 victories on the day. Junior Jay DeYoung won seven bouts and reached his 100th career victory with his performance.

The Blue Jays are now 11-5 on the season and will be back in action on February 9 at the Duke Invitational.

## Robinson paces Hopkins Track team

BY JASON PLUSH  
Staff Writer

Over the course of this past weekend, the Hopkins men's and women's track and field teams traveled to Penn State and University of Delaware to compete in the Penn State National Invitational and the Delaware Thomson Invitational. Throughout the course of these two tournaments, several individual records were broken.

In addition, multiple Centennial Conference records were shattered, as both teams established themselves as strong competitors early on the Invitational. The track and field squads displayed signs of greatness and will look to continue their accomplishments this weekend heading into the heart of their regular season against other Centennial Conference opponents.

On the men's track team, several individuals ran extremely well in both the Penn State and Thomson Invitational meets. Junior Max Robinson set the Hopkins school record this weekend, posting an astonishing 14:47 time in the 5,000-meter. His time not only shattered the previous Hopkins indoor track record, but also marked a career best for Robinson.

The highlights, however, didn't stop with Robinson as several members of the team went on to set their own career bests. Junior Wes Butler ran an impressive 4:24.04 in the indoor mile, which nearly marked a career best. Other notable accomplishments from the Penn State Invite were clocked in the 3,000-meter run as sophomore Julian Salianni and freshman Schaffer Ochstein ran times of 8:40.77 and 8:47.80 respectively.

The Penn State meet allowed us to run on a fast track against some very strong competition and

has helped start to prepare for our upcoming meets," Robinson said.

The Thomson Invitational yielded similar results for the Blue Jays as they built off of their momentum from Saturday's performance.

The day started off strong as junior Jonathan Hickman threw his season-best in the shot put competition, posting an impressive 40 feet 1.5 inches. Junior Sam Cook also achieved his personal and season best at Thomson in the shot put event, posting a toss of 38 feet 11.75 inches. Freshman Adrian Stelmach ran a career-best 9.07 seconds in the 60 meter hurdles, sophomore Ryan Walsh placed third overall in the high jump with a jump of 6 feet, 4 inches, and sophomore Paul Vozzo finished fourth overall in the pole vault competition, while posting a season-best vault of 13 feet, 11.25 inches.

"I would say overall the performances were solid," Robinson said. "But I also think it showed us that there's still work to be done if we want to score big at conferences."

The Blue Jays will look to improve upon this weekend's success when they head into the Seamus McElliot Invitation and the Armory Collegiate Invitational this upcoming weekend.

The Hopkins women's track and field team also competed at the Penn State National Invitational and Delaware Thomson Invitational this weekend while posting some significant records of their own.

Freshman Hannah Oneda continued her dominance in the Hopkins running program after having a very successful fall in cross country by finishing seventh overall in the elite invitational race at Penn State.

She shattered the previous Centennial Conference record with an astounding time of 9:34.95, clocking the most impressive and fastest Division III time since 2004. She posted the sixth fastest 3,000 meter run time in Division III history while outrunning competitors from Villanova, Syracuse, Georgetown, and Penn State.

Senior Annie Monagle also posted very respectable numbers at the Penn State Invitational as she performed admirably in the 800 meter run, finishing in fifth place overall with a time of 2:15.46. Not only was this one of the most successful runs of her career, but also the fifth fastest time in the 800 meter run in all of Division III this season.

Along with Monagle's achievements, freshman Megan McDonald became the first freshman in Hopkins track and field history to break 60 seconds in the 400 meter event, edging out all previous records with a time of 59.81 seconds. Oneda's performance, coupled with McDonald and Monagle's runs, marked the highlights of the Penn State Invitational for the Blue Jays.

At the Thomson Invitational on Sunday, the team looked to continue their streak of success and went on to set more school and season records.

The day started off very well for senior Emily Kashka as she achieved her season best with a pole vault of 9 feet, 10 inches.

Meanwhile, fellow teammate junior Emily Swenson tied a previous Hopkins record in the 60-meter hurdle by placing fifth overall in the competition with a time of 9.53 seconds.

The Lady Jays will travel to the Seamus McElliot Invitational and the Armory Collegiate Invitational next weekend with the men's team.

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK JIMMY HAMMER- BASKETBALL

By SYDNEY TENG  
Sports Editor

Currently on a three-game winning streak, men's basketball has been putting up one strong performance after another. Losing only two games out of a possible ten in the new year, it appears they've unlocked some secret to success. That secret? 6'2" junior guard Jimmy Hammer.

One glance at the individual statistics highlights Hammer's dominance on the court. Tied at the top for scoring, Hammer averages 11.9 points-a-game. As of late, he has paved the way for two key conference victories for the Jays, dialing up 18 points in their most recent win over Muhlenberg and a career-high 22 points over Dickinson. Hammer's prowess continues, shooting .917 percent in free throws and .449 in three-pointers.

In the exciting victory over Muhlenberg, 63-59, Hammer's aptitude at the line came up big in the closing minutes of the first half. Hammer then lead the charge in a ten-point scoring run in the opening moments of the second. Similarly, the junior went five for five in free throws during the Dickinson game a week before. In addition, Hammer put on a three-pointer clinic in the match, at one time hitting three in a row from downtown. Prior to that, Hammer poured on the points in the unfortunate double overtime loss to Franklin and Marshall, notching 21 points in the game.

As January comes to a close, the season is making a turn towards the 'must-win' stage. Nerves

for the conference tournament continue to grow, especially considering the Jays' previous first round exit at the hands of Washington College last year. As of late, Hammer has pushed Hopkins within one game of topping the Centennial Conference leader board, initiating a fantastic buildup to what is sure to be an exhilarating post-season. Considering the recent successes

of the Blue Jays and Jimmy's corresponding artistry on the court, *The News-Letter* dropped by to ask the junior Guard a few questions.

*The News-Letter* (N-L): Walk me through your latest win over Muhlenberg—they're on a three game winning streak, last time you faced them, it was a tight game, and now you're on the road... what was your strategy going into the game?

Jimmy Hammer (JH): We knew we had to come out and play well and execute what we practiced, but at the same time we had to shut down Malique Killings because he is one of the best players in the league. We have been playing well recently and we knew if we continued that good play, we would win. And we were able to do all these things and get the big win.

N-L: You've had a couple of impressive performances this season, and it seems like they're becoming more and more common. What's fueling this

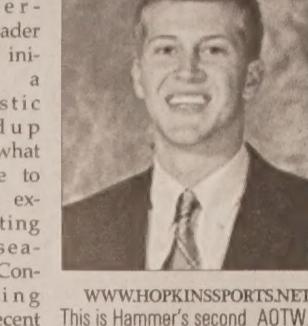
new personal drive? Anything different in team dynamic this year?

JH: I guess I just realize that we have an opportunity to not only host the conference tournament, but to win it and go to the NCAA tournament. It is added motivation for me because that is our ultimate goal, going to the NCAA tournament. I don't think our team dynamic has changed too much. We were good last year, but came up

short in the conference tournament. Plus we only lost Tim McCarty and Danny Gergen to graduation, so we had a lot of players returning this year along with a solid freshmen class.

N-L: You're 8-4 in the conference and recently secured that third place slot. The leader board's pretty tight right now, and you have Gettysburg coming on Thursday. How important is this game coming up and any thoughts on potential home court advantage?

JH: The Gettysburg game coming up is absolutely huge. It is a must win, along with the rest of the games on our schedule. There is no room for error, especially if we want to host the conference tournament. Hosting the tournament would be awesome and it would be a great atmosphere because I think lots of fans would come to support us.



www.hopkinssports.net

This is Hammer's second AOTW.

## Vasilla etches name in history

W. BASKETBALL, FROM B12  
each other."

Hopkins is now 9-6 in conference play, trailing the 8-5 Muhlenberg Mules by mere percentage points for third place in the Centennial Conference.

The Jays are looking poised to overtake the Mules for third place, as the team cruised to a 52-44 victory on the road against them just this past Saturday.

With just over two weeks left in the season, the Lady Jays are looking to move up in the standings in the Centennial Conference.

Swarthmore remains number one at 11-2 in conference, just ahead of Gettysburg's 11-3 record. There are five games remaining on the road against them just this past Saturday.

With just over two weeks left in the season, the Lady Jays are looking to move up in the standings in the Centennial Conference.

Hopkins beat Swarthmore, Ursinus, and McDaniel, while losing narrowly to Gettysburg and Franklin and Marshall.

"This season was definitely a rough start for us"

FILE PHOTO  
Senior Alex Vasilla (#44) is the sixth Lady Jay to record 800 rebounds.

that really hurt us. Haley Bush and Alyssa Fleming were tough setbacks, especially Alyssa because she was in a guard position, where we were already not deep. We tried a bunch of combinations, but finally found Liz, and everything clicked. We started playing together, reading each other, developing the type of chemistry that all the veterans were used to from past seasons. Now we have a lot of contributions coming from different players all the time, whereas before we were trying to force things to work."

Coming down the homestretch, it looks to be a very exciting finish for the Blue Jays, who will undoubtedly be a factor in the Centennial Conference playoffs.

"The team's morale going into these next few games is pretty serious," Vasilla said. "We know how important both these games are in clinching a playoff spot for the post season. As long as we keep playing to win, and taking games one at a time, one battle at a time, we have the ability and confidence to blow both these teams out."

# SPORTS

## W. Basketball wins by forty five points

By CAMERON CALDWELL  
Staff Writer

Since the middle of December, the Hopkins women's basketball team has played in 11 additional games. During that time, the Lady Jays went 8-3, bringing their record to 9-6 in the Centennial Conference and 10-9 overall. Dating back to Jan. 8, the team has won eight of their last nine games, all in conference.

The sole loss came on January 23, when the Jays fell 51-47 to Franklin and Marshall at home, despite maintaining a 47-44 lead with just 2:04 left in regulation. However, in their two previous games, the Lady Jays crushed Bryn Mawr and Dickinson 86-29 and 70-46, respectively. The three stars of the games were senior forward Alex Vasilla, sophomore guard Stacy Fairey, and freshman guard Liz Tommasi. The three combined for 77 points in the two games, and the 6'1 Vasilla accumulated 29 rebounds.

The Lady Jays continued their dominance Tuesday night, rolling over Bryn Mawr on the road 72-37. Helping in the trounce were the usual suspects with Vasilla's 19 points and 9 boards, Fairey's 13 points and 5 steals and Tommasi's 10 points and 7 rebounds. Also contributing to the effort were sophomore guard Jessica Brown, sophomore center Ciara McCullagh, and freshman guard Scarlett McCracken who herself scored 5 points.

On November 27 in a heartbreaking 53-51 loss in Goldfarb Gymnasium against Washington College, junior guard Alyssa Fleming was lost for the season with an ACL tear. Fleming had started all 6 games of the season, and head coach Nancy Funk gave Liz Tommasi the starting nod. Since then Tommasi has averaged 8.3 points per game.

"It's been a great pleasure to be able to play and contribute to the team as a freshman," Tommasi said. "All of the girls on the team are wonderful to be around and are all very encouraging of each other. I hope that we can give the seniors the season they deserve. Our three seniors Alex Vasilla, Sarah Higbee, and Kara Follmer all have been very helpful in the transition from high school basketball to college, and as for who I look up to on the team, I have really hit it off with Alex. We both seem to feed off of each other and motivate

*SEE W. BASKETBALL, PAGE B11*



FILE PHOTO

The Hopkins men's basketball team has turned a corner in the month of January. After a 5-5 start to open the season, the squad has won seven of their past nine games including three straight Centennial Conference victories. Please see page B11 for full coverage.

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### Column: The Super Baugh

Sports Editor Frank Schiff previews the major story line of Super Bowl XLVII as the two Harbaugh brothers square off against each other as head coaches.

*Page B10*

### Athlete of the Week: Jimmy Hammer

After another dominant week on the court, sophomore Jimmy Hammer returns for his second AOTW award. The team is in the midst of a 3 game CC win streak.

*Page B11*

### Track: More record broken

In the Penn State National Invitational and the Delaware Thomson Invitational both men and women's track teams broke long-standing records.

*Page B11*

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## Student Group Housing 2013

**work together . play together . live together**

Have you bonded with classmates, members of your organization, or do you just have a big group of friends that want to live close together? Student Group Housing offers a unique opportunity for mixed groups of sophomores and juniors with shared common interests to live in a residential community together. This option is available in McCoy Hall only.

This year when you sign up for Student Group Housing in McCoy floors 3-6, rising sophomores will have the opportunity to register in groups of 7, 8, 12, 16, or fill an entire wing (East Side - 39 Students & West Side - 43 Students).

Please note: If you have more than 16 members in your group, but not enough to fill an entire wing, we ask that a minimum of three full suites be left available in the wing to fill during the Freshmen Room Selection Process, unless a smaller group of 11 or 12 chooses to fill the remaining spaces.

Don't forget -all suites must be completely filled!

Groups may be comprised of several suites of the same gender or suites of different genders (for example, two male suites and one female suite, just remember suites must be single-sex). Students must choose suites adjacent to, or within close proximity to one another. Remember, the best part of being in Student Group Housing is that you get to live with a larger group of friends AND you get to secure your space before room selection takes place.

[www.jhu.edu/hds/together](http://www.jhu.edu/hds/together)

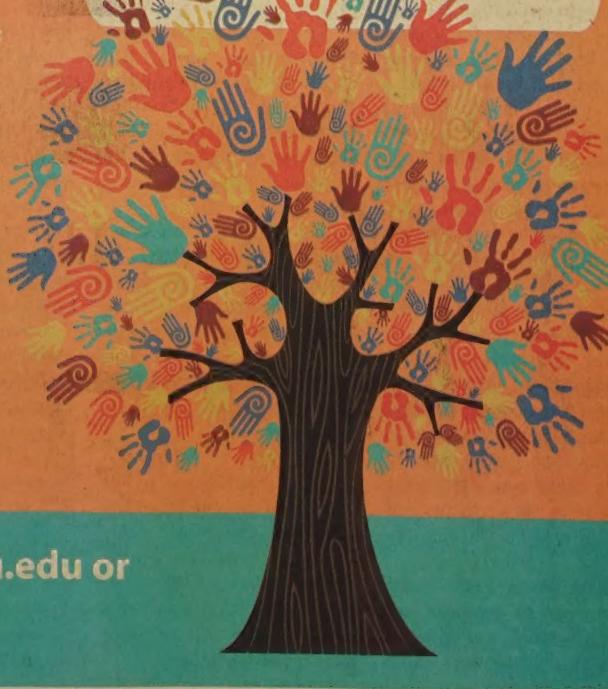
### Dates to Remember....

Join us on Monday, February 4th  
Student Group Housing Information Session  
@ 3:00pm in AMR Reading Room

Monday, February 4th @ 5:00pm -  
Monday, February 11th @ 11:59pm  
Student Group Housing Registration to be completed and submitted on-line  
Visit [www.jhu.edu/hds/together](http://www.jhu.edu/hds/together)  
Deadline:  
Monday, February 11th @ 11:59pm

Friday, February 15th  
Student Group Housing Priority Number Notification sent out via email by 5:00 pm

Thursday, February 21st  
Contract Signing for Student Group Housing at 3:00pm  
Location - To be determined



For questions or concerns email: [confirmation@hd.jhu.edu](mailto:confirmation@hd.jhu.edu) or call: 410-516-7960

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Centennial Conference was dominated by the Blue Jays this weekend as baseball, men's and women's tennis and women's track defended their titles with relative ease.

## CALENDAR

THURSDAY  
Baseball vs. Salisbury, 3:30 PM